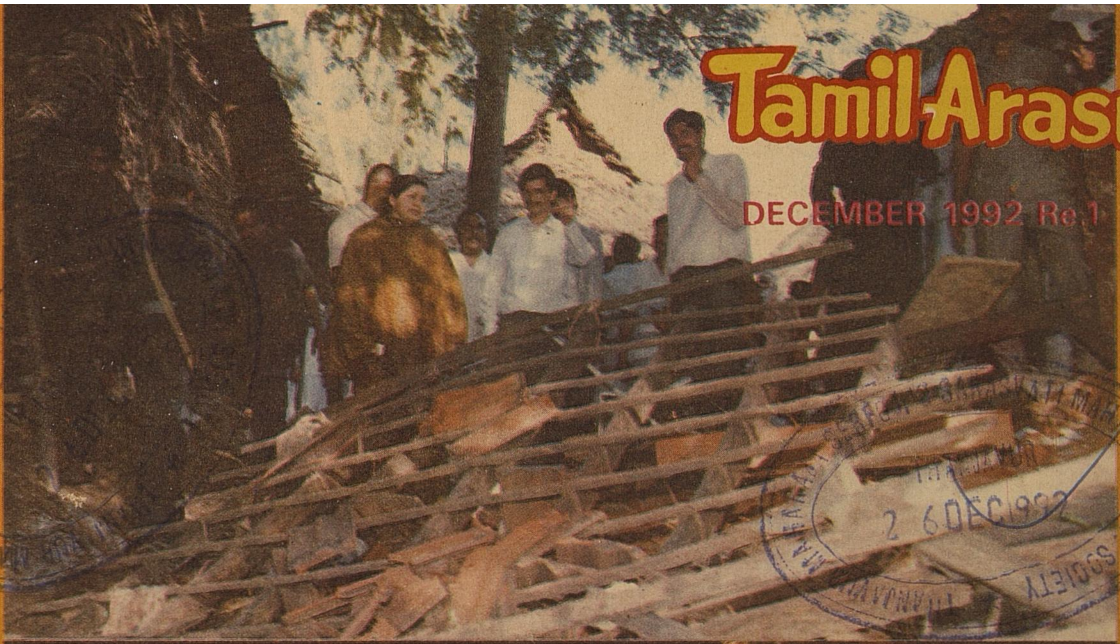
Tamil Arasu

DECEMBER 1992 Re.1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TAMIL ARASU

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I Wrapper — Flood Relief Measures.
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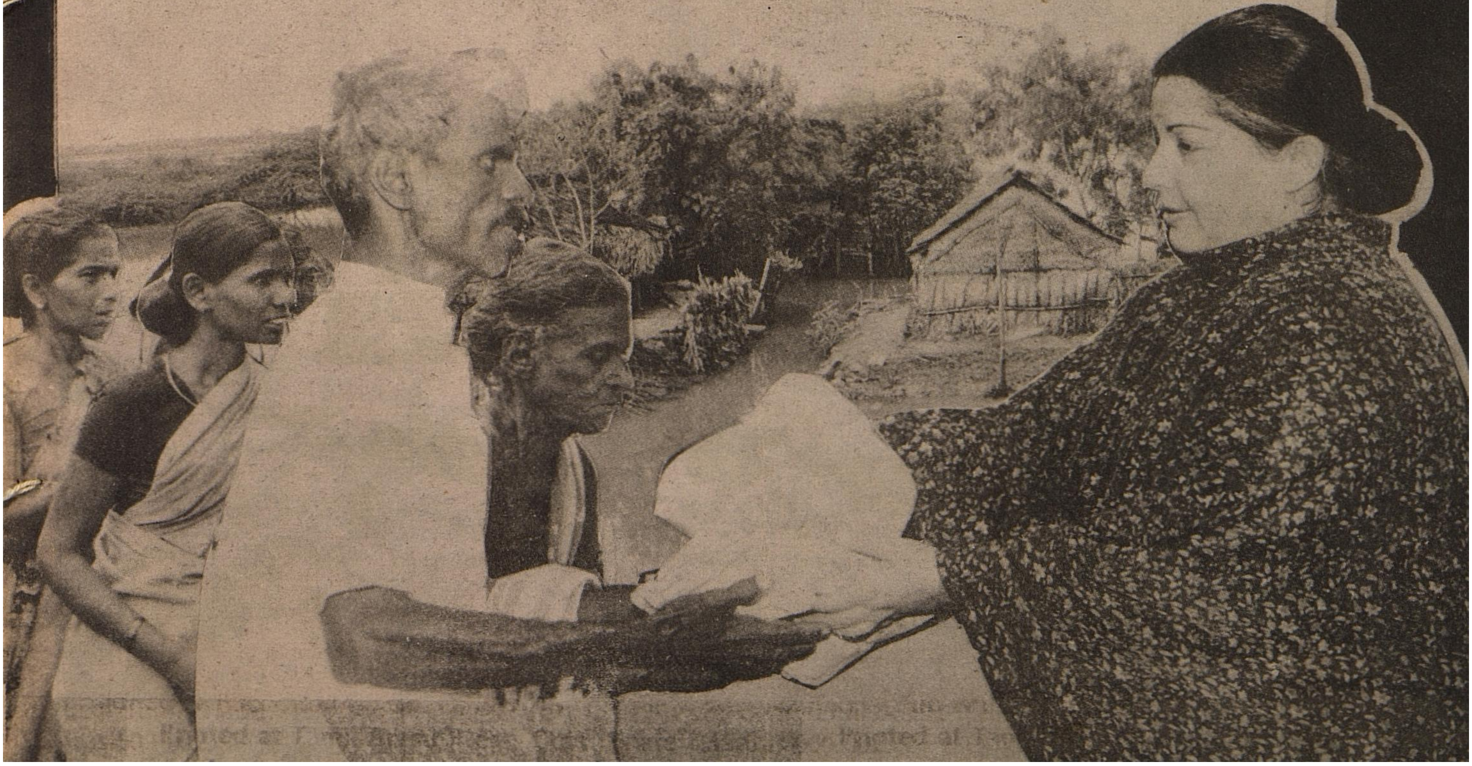


FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES ON A WAR-FOOTING IN TAMIL NADU

The cyclonic storm which lay centred at 600 km south east of Nagapattinam on 11th November 1992 crossed the coast of Tamil Nadu near Tuticorin around 4.30 pm on 13th, bringing heavy rain in the southern Districts of the State. The flood and land slide caused by the heavy rain took away 238 lives and rendered 2 lakh people homeless. The worst hit areas were the southern Districts of Tirunelveli - Kattabomman, Chidambaranar, Kanniyakumari and Ramanathapuram. The Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, who had gone to Delhi, when informed of the situation, issued special orders sanctioning the enhanced amount of Rs.10,000 to the nearest kin of each victim. She also directed that relief measures should be undertaken on a war-footing.

Kanniyakumari District was virtually cut off from other parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala by road with the major bridges lying submerged in water.

The reservoirs and irrigation tanks in all these Districts received copious inflows. The irrigation engineers supervised the regulation, Camping at the Dam sites. Round-the-clock patrolling were undertaken at the reservoirs and the banks. Public Works Department engineers were asked to ensure that the tanks were filled by flood waters in Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar District.

In Kanniyakumari District, the Government opened 27 relief centres to accommodate 1,500 persons rendered homeless.

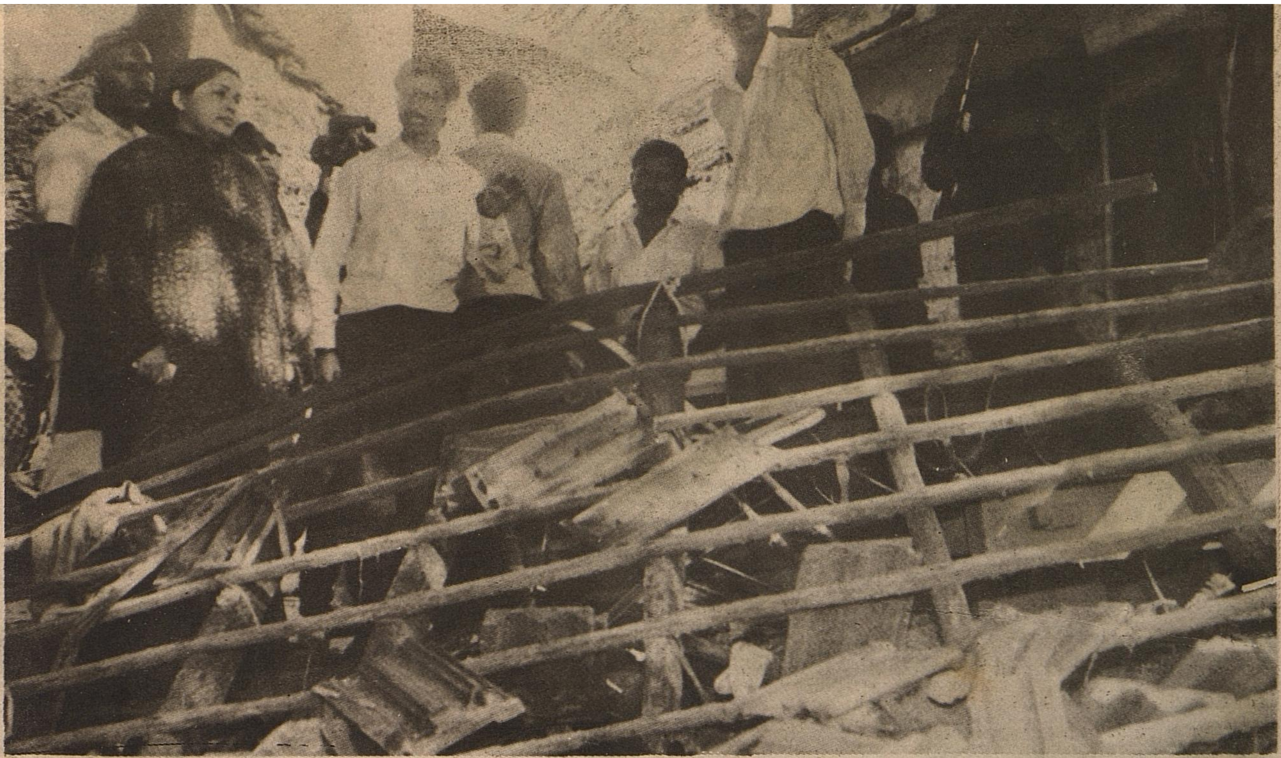
The Chief Minister deputed three senior IAS Officers to monitor and coordinate relief operations in the cyclone and flood affected Districts.

Following heavy discharge from the Papanasam and Manimuthar Dams, Punnaikayal, a marine fishing Village, in Chidambaranar District was marooned. The coast Guard Vessel attached to the Tuticorin base and five mechanical boats of the Fisheries Department were sent to the Village for rescue operations.

A Central Ministerial team led by the Union Minister for Agriculture, Thiru Balram Jakhar, immediately on arrival held a discussion with the State Officials at the Secretariat and made an aerial survey of the affected Districts by helicopter.

Chief Minister in rain hit areas

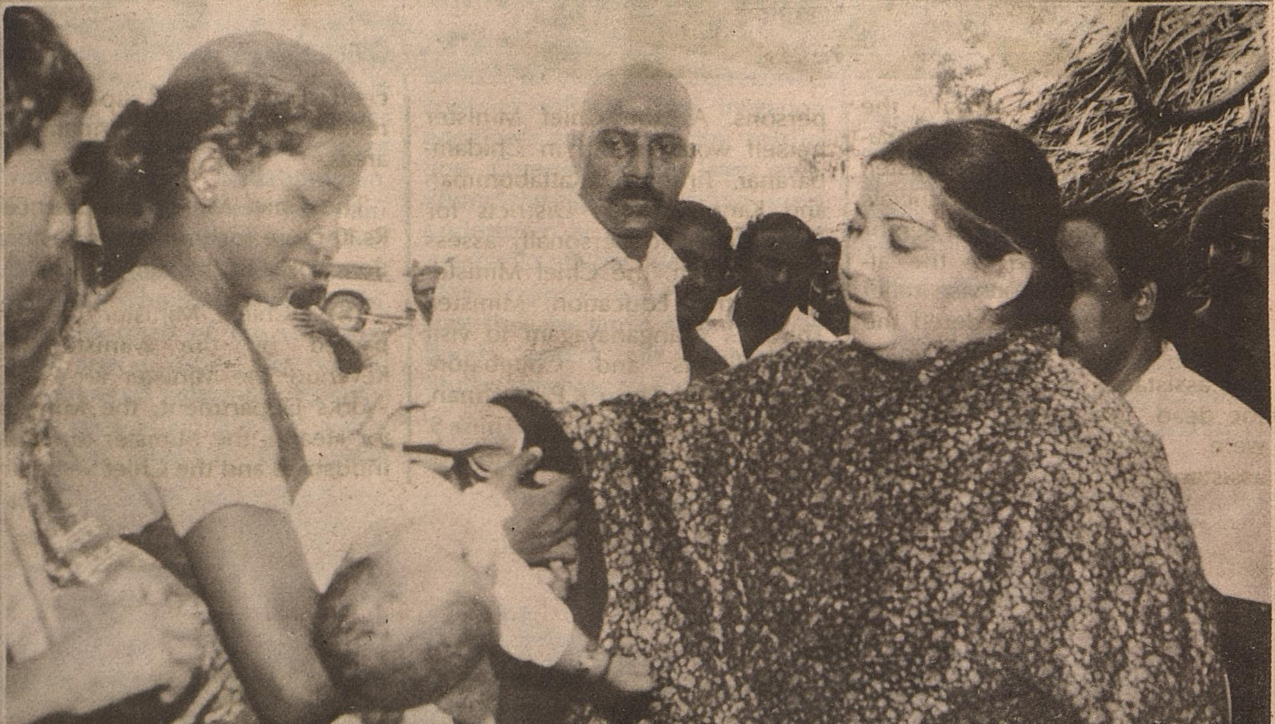
The Chief Minister who had gone to Delhi to participate in the discussion on Planning Commission, cut short her visit and rushed back to Madras.



Immediately on arrival, the Chief Minister reviewed the situation with the Revenue Minister, Chief Secretary and other Officials and directed Ministers and Senior Officials to proceed to the affected areas and supervise relief operations. She also ordered the immediate disbursement of financial assistance to dependants of the dead. The District Collectors were directed to provide assistance in cash to the affected persons. As the Chief Minister herself would camp in Chidambaranar, Tirunelveli-Kattabomman and Kanniyakumari Districts for three days and personally assess the situation, the Chief Minister asked the Education Minister, Thiru C. Aranganayagam to visit the Nilgiris and Coimbatore Districts and Thiru K.P. Krishnan, Agriculture Minister, and Thiru S. Regupathy, Labour Minister to proceed to Madurai and supervise the relief works in Chinnamanur areas.

The Chief Minister announced Rs.10 crore for immediate restoration works in the rain hit areas.

The Chief Minister accompanied by the Minister for Revenue, the Minister for Public Works Department, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Rural Industries and the Chief Secretary



and other Officials met the fishermen of Thirespuram, Tuticorin and distributed dress materials and rice and assured them of further help. She later visited Mukkani and some other affected areas and also distributed relief materials at Pazhayakayal Village.

On 17th, the Chief Minister met the residents of Tiruvalluvar Colony at Vickramasingapuram in Tirunelveli District, where 25 persons lost their lives in flash floods, and heard the grievances of the people and distributed sarees, dhotis, bedsheets and rice bags to the affected people. From Vickramasingapuram she drove to Tirunelveli Via Ambasamudram, Kovilkulam, Pallakal, Pudukudi, Edaikal, Pappakudi, Mukkoodal, Arianayagipuram, Sanganthiradu, Nadukkallur, Pettai and Tirunelveli town. She and her cabinet colleagues distributed relief materials on their way.

On 18th she met the people of Nagercoil and distributed the relief materials and said she had sent a telex message to the Prime Minister requesting for a Central assistance of Rs.500 crore to meet

the situation arising out of the havoc caused by heavy rain and floods.

Speaking at Kothaigramam Village, on the outskirts of Nagercoil later in the evening, she said she had ordered the District Collector of Kanniyakumari to provide to the affected people, five kg of rice, sarees, dhotis, etc. immediately. She said she was holding consultations with the Collector on the steps to be taken to prevent recurrence of the damage which the Village had suffered. A plan would be prepared and implemented shortly to avert any tragedy in the future, she assured the people and later distributed relief materials.

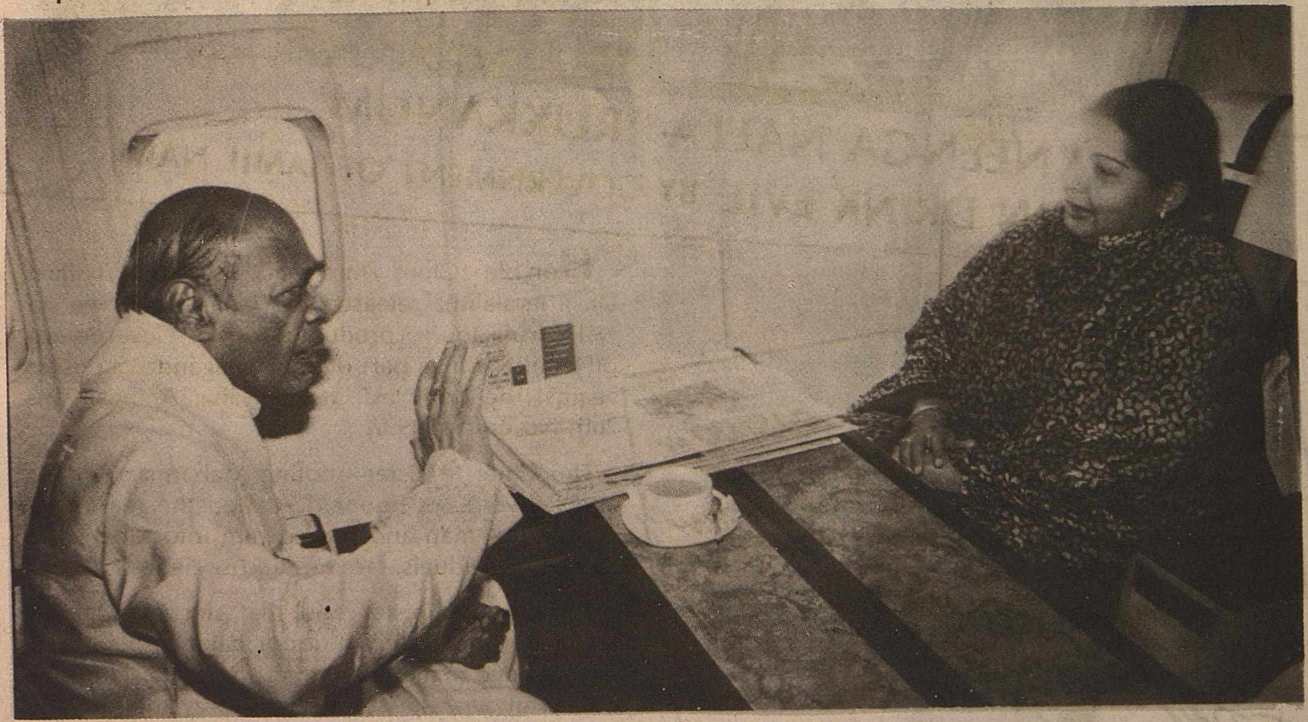
The Chief Minister, then, visited Suchindrum and also made an aerial survey of the affected areas which were close to Kerala border. Finishing off her visit to the flood hit areas, the Chief Minister returned to Madras on 19th evening.

Seeking Central Assistance

The Hon'ble Chief Minister met the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 23.11.92 at 10 am at the Prime Minister's residence and presented to him a memorandum prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu seeking Central assistance to the tune of Rs.530.04 crore in order to provide relief and rehabilitation to the flood affected people of Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister presented to the Prime Minister a Video cassette and photo album containing details of the damages caused by the Cyclone and floods in Tamil Nadu.

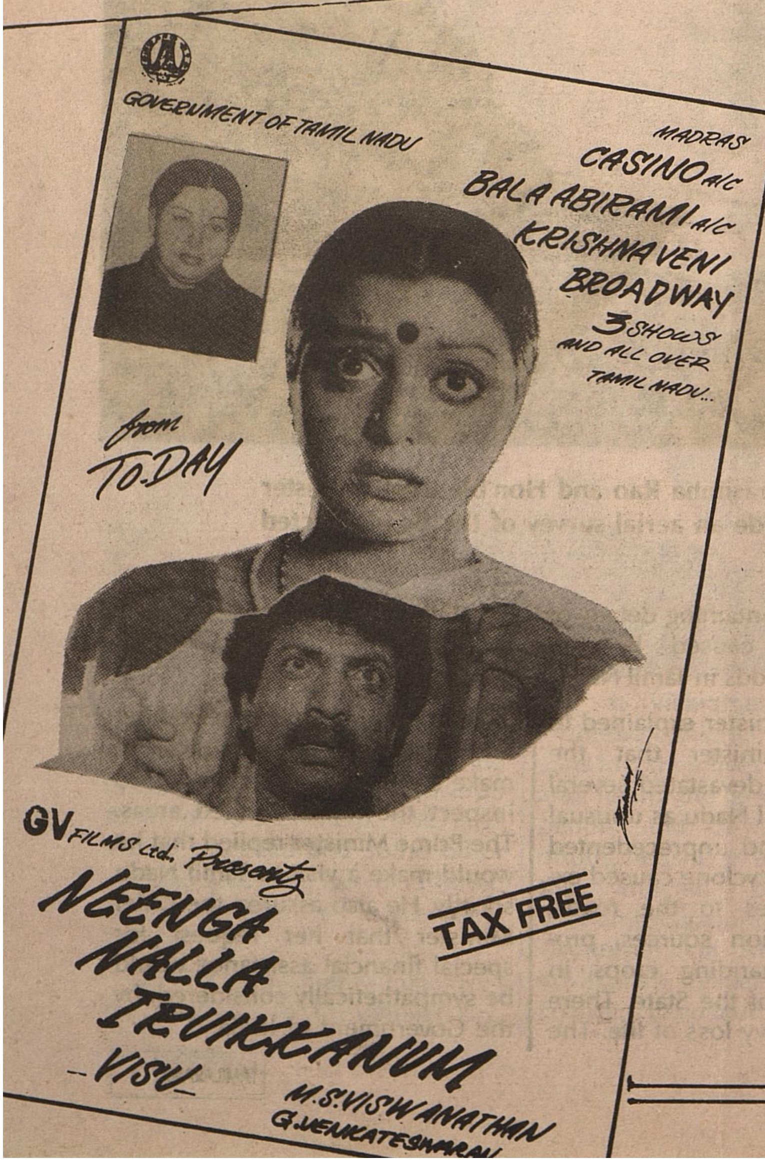
The Chief Minister explained to the Prime Minister that the Cyclone which devastated several districts of Tamil Nadu as unusual in its nature and unprecedented in its fury. The cyclone caused extensive damages to the roads, bridges, irrigation sources, properties and standing crops in many districts of the State. There has been a heavy loss of life. The Chief Minister informed the Prime Minister that 230 people lost their lives, about 2 lakh huts have been destroyed and damaged, standing crops on 51,000 hectares have been fully damaged, there has been heavy loss of livestock, many roads and irrigation tanks have breached and several bridges have been washed away. About 2000 Fishing Boats have also been destroyed. In order to bring the State back to normalcy, the Chief Minister sought special financial assistance of Rs.530.04 crore from the Centre.

The Chief Minister renewed her invitation to the Prime Minister to make a visit to Tamil Nadu and to inspect the flood affected areas. The Prime Minister replied that he would make a visit to Tamil Nadu shortly. He also assured the Chief Minister that her request for special financial assistance would be sympathetically considered, by the Government of India.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao and Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha made an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Tamil Nadu on 1.12.1992.

"NEENGA NALLA IRUKKANUM"
—FILM ON DRINK EVIL BY GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha released the Tamil Film "Neenga Nalla Irukkanum" produced for the Government of Tamil Nadu as part of its propaganda offensive against the drink evil at Kalaivanar Arangam on 26th November, 1992.

The Chief Minister quoting Mahatma Gandhi, and Periyar said, liquor destroyed the reasoning capacity of man and turned him into a beast. It ruined individuals, families and societies.

The Chief Minister said that since law alone could not eradicate the liquor habit in people, it was decided to make a film on commercial lines to create an awareness and wean away the addicts. The film would be screened all over the State from 27th November, 1992.

She thanked all those who contributed to the making of the film and appealed to the people to make it a success. She said the G.V. Films had produced the film at a cost of Rs.88 lakh inclusive of the charges of publicity and for taking 30 prints. And the producers were confident of repaying the Government Rs.85 lakh which it had advanced for the film, she said.

Thiru K. Malaisamy, I.A.S., Home Secretary welcomed the gathering. Thiru Visu, Director of the film, lauded the Government for its absolute involvement and for its non-interference in making the film. Thiru G.Venkateswaran, Producer, proposed a vote of thanks.

The Chief Minister, Ministers and others later saw the film.

NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL MEETING

— Hon'ble Chief Minister's Address

The National Integration Council is meeting at a crucial juncture to discuss an issue which has stirred the emotions of millions of the people of our country. The question is not whether we can arrive at a consensus on the Ayodhya issue in a meeting like this. Because the problem is beset with complexities of vast ramifications and any decision is bound to leave an indelible mark upon the future of our country. The more important question is whether eminent leaders of all faiths and convictions who are assembled here can display enough statesmanship, maturity and wisdom to see each other's point of view and help the country to cross this hurdle and take it on the path of peace and harmony that is basic to the very fabric of our society.

The Ayodhya issue has many sides to it Constitutional, legal, historical, political, social and communal. The attention of the whole country, nay, of the whole world is now focussed on how effectively the leaders will come together to resolve this tangle. We ought to be keenly aware of this fact and take the next step in such a way that the integrity and stability of this nation are preserved under the principles enshrined in our Constitution.

Kindly allow me to recall what I said on the Ayodhya issue at the meeting of the National Integration Council held on the 2nd November 1991:

"I only wish to remind you that any decision you may take on the Ram Janma Bhoomi Babri Masjid issue would have its repercussions on the Hindu-Muslim relationship all over the country, if such a decision is not taken with the fullest understanding of all the issues involved".

In the first place, the secular character of our Constitution enjoins upon us the responsibility to conduct our affairs in such a manner that the citizens in the minority are able effectively to enjoy the same rights as the majority. At the same time, it will not be right on the part of a minority in any context of political, historical or social configuration to promote its interests to the complete detriment of even the normal rights and privileges of the majority available to it under the Constitution. Admittedly the Hindus are the majority community in this country. If they seek to fulfil their

religious aspirations in a peaceful manner not inconsistent with the principles of the Constitution, they should be allowed to do so. In fact, the Government of India has a responsibility to ensure that they enjoy their rights as peacefully as the minority. More specifically, with respect to the Ayodhya issue, this would mean permitting a construction as wished for by the Hindus to come up on the site acquired by the Uttar Pradesh Government. I am aware that the Supreme Court directions to the Uttar Pradesh Government and the pendency of the cases in the High Court have created a legal situation making it difficult for the Kar Sewa or any other form of activity to be organised on the site acquired by the Uttar Pradesh Government. If we accept the position that there should be no bar to the construction of a structure on this site, the Central Government and the Uttar Pradesh Government would have to take the necessary steps to see that the legal hurdles in this regard are cleared immediately. But the existence of a legal difficulty should not be used as an opportunity to postpone a decision on this issue, because with each passing day it may prove to be more and more difficult for the Government to face the emotional upsurge of a defiant people. This august body will, therefore, have to take a decision on creating a congenial atmosphere for the conduct of the Kar Sewa. All steps will have to be taken to move the courts to permit Kar Sewa.

The other question regarding the disputed site will remain. The Prime Minister has initiated steps to bring the parties together so that necessary evidence may be produced to prove or to disprove the claims of the respective parties. Be that as it may, I am of the view that these steps may not solve the issue. The Prime Minister is aware of this and hence the question of a reference to the Supreme Court on the basic issue of the existence of a temple on the disputed site has been raised. In my opinion, we will be only chasing the will-of-the-wisp. Why do we have to go about trying to prove or disprove history? Should we have to bring in the apex court to decide on historical facts? Will we succeed in re-writing history this way? Or, is it necessary in the larger interests of our country? These are questions which we have to ponder over seriously.

My considered view is that we should leave the question of the Masjid as it is. We need not open a Pandora's Box and try to find out whether a temple existed in its place prior to A.D. 1528. The spirit of the Indian Constitution and the genius of the Indian people have envisaged an attitude of give-and-take and it behoves the leaders of our country to display genuine understanding of the spirit of the Constitution and to promote communal peace and amity.

In short, my plea is: Create conditions for Kar Sewa to be performed on the site acquired by the Uttar Pradesh Government. Leave the Masjid as it is without going into historical questions and allow the people of this country to live in peace.

Mr. V.P.Singh and others spoke about the need to protect the Constitution. They said that if a State Government does not need an order of the Supreme Court, it should be deemed that the Government is not being carried on in accordance with the Constitution, and the State Government should be dismissed.

The need to obey orders of the Judiciary should not and cannot be stressed selectively. When the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal comprising Supreme Court Judges gave an interim order, the Karnataka Government did not need it. The President, on the advice of the Central Government referred the matter to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave its opinion, upholding the interim order of the Tribunal. Yet, eventhough one and a half years have elapsed the Karnataka State Government did not implement the order. The Karnataka State Government has shown disrespect to the Judiciary. The NIC did not take note of this and did not pass a resolution condemning the failure to abide by the Constitution. Neither the NIC nor the Government of India threatened the Karnataka State Government with dismissal. Therefore, I think it is wrong to threaten the UP Government with dismissal.

It is to be regretted that the BJP and allied parties have boycotted this meeting. All parties and all members should attend the NIC meeting and express their views here.

Mr.Inderjit Gupta spoke about the BJP's fear of isolation here. Yes-they may be isolated at this meeting, but it cannot be denied that outside, among the masses, the desire to build a temple at Ayodhya represents the aspirations of the majority of the people in this country.

We must take note of public opinion. My plea is that **we should not and cannot afford to ignore public opinion,** the opinion of the majority of the people of this country.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views at this meeting.

(Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at the National Integration Council Meeting on 23rd November, 1992)

SOUTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The 21st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was held at Secretariat, Madras on 10th November 1992. The Chairman of the Council and Union Home Minister Thiru. S.B. Chavan, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, the Chief Minister of Kerala Thiru. K. Karunakaran, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Thiru. K. Vijayabaskara Reddy, the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry Dr. Harswaroop Singh, the Chief Minister of Pondicherry Thiru. V. Vaithyalingam and the Revenue Minister of Karnataka Thiru. Mallikarjun Kharge attended the meeting. Others who attended the meeting were Union Minister for Agriculture Thiru. Balram Jakhar, Union Minister of State for Home Thiru. M.M. Jacob, Union Minister of State for Urban Development, Thiru. M. Arunachalam, Union Minister of State for Finance, Thiru. Rameshwar Takur, Union Deputy Minister for Coal, Thiru. S.B. Nyama Gouda, Minister for Finance, Thiru. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Transport, Thiru. K. Sengottayan, Minister for Education, Thiru. C. Aranganayagam, Minister for Public Works Department, Thiru. Kannappan and the Chief Secretaries to the respective Governments.

SPEECH OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, PURATCHI THALAIVI Dr. J. JAYALALITHA AT THE SOUTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 21st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council being held today at the historic city of Madras. I am happy that the Union Home Minister chose Madras as the venue for this meeting. The very first meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was hosted at Madras way back in 1957. Another meeting was held at Madras in 1978. I am glad that we have been given the opportunity to host the meeting again at Madras, after a lapse of 14 years. I find that this meeting itself is taking place after a long gap of more than 4 years. I do hope that this meeting will mark a new beginning, towards more frequent interaction among the States and the Centre, on issues of common interest. I extend a hearty welcome to the Union Home Minister, the Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry, other Ministers, Chief Secretaries and Officers. I do hope you are satisfied with our arrangements for your stay here.

In a federal polity like ours, where the constituent States are large, with populations exceeding those of many Nations, a forum like the Southern Zonal Council can serve a useful purpose of forging common approaches, in a spirit of mutual cooperation. The Sarkaria Commission has concluded that the Zonal Councils should be reactivated and has made important recommendations to achieve this objective. We endorse the Commission's recommendation that the Zonal Council should be constituted under Article 263 of the Constitution. I hope that the Government of India will be able to take early decisions on these recommendations. The Nineties have ushered in a new spirit of regional cooperation worldwide. In many countries abroad, the recognition that the successful functioning of the constituent units is vital for the health of the entire Nation, is taking deep roots. In many other countries this need has become compelling, even in order to preserve the integrity of nationhood. While we are much better placed in this regard in our country, we have to take note of the winds of change blowing across many countries and forge new bridges of understanding among the States. An active Zonal Council with the full involvement of the Centre will greatly further this process.

We have a long agenda before us. Before we go into the details, I would like to highlight a few issues of common interest. The recent increases in the prices of fertilizers, diesel, L.P.G. and rice announced by the Centre, as a part of its policy to contain the Central fiscal deficit, has left the States in an extremely difficult position. State Governments, which are so much closer to the people in their everyday life, have had to bear the brunt of the adverse reaction. On our part in Tamil Nadu, we have organised an effective public distribution system and kept the price of basic cereals like rice affordable by the poor. However, by its policies, the Central Government has shifted the fiscal burden to the States. Higher inflation has also meant a virtually impossible burden of meeting the steep dearness allowance increases to be given to the Government employees. While we are trying our best to cope with this difficult financial situation, without sacrificing development efforts, it behoves the Centre to come forward to understand the situation and generally assist the States. I would, in particular, like to stress the need to exercise restraint, in any further attempt to increase the issue prices of foodgrains. We are already bearing the additional fiscal burden on account of the last increase in issue prices and any further increase will make it impossible for us to bear the burden.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the immediate need to reintroduce a set of special incentives for Small Savings collections. Small Savings collections have dropped appreciable and we

are confronted with a serious shortfall in resources in financing the approved Plan outlay. The withdrawal of concessions for Small Savings, after the States had finalised their Plan for 1992-93, has seriously hurt the financing of State Plans. I suggest that this Council may resolve to request the Government of India to reconsider the issue and introduce a fresh package of incentives, to ensure that Small Savings collections pick up in the current year sufficiently, so that the additional resource mobilisation effort is eased somewhat.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the normal ways and means accommodation available to the States from the Reserve Bank of India, has remained static since 1988. Since then budgets have more than doubled. It is time that the limits were revised. I am sure all the Chief Ministers will agree that we should press the Centre, to see that the limits are doubled in the current financial year.

One issue which is of immediate interest to the States is the financial assistance from the Centre on externally aided projects. The State Governments had pressed the Centre to extend hundred per cent assistance on all externally aided projects, including ongoing projects. This was accepted at the meeting of the National Development Council held in May, 1992, and was to be made effective from the current financial year. The Centre has not yet issued fresh guidelines on this issue. In a difficult financial year, the delay is causing us considerale concern and is telling upon the utilisation of external credits. I do hope the Centre will issue these guidelines quickly.

We are also concerned about the delay in introducing legislation in Parliament, to implement the decisions already agreed to, on Consignment Tax. We are worried that the consideration of the reports of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and the Chelliah Committee will only delay the issue further. I am of the view that the decisions already agreed upon in the Chief Ministers' meeting convened by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, should be implemented. Let us all request the Centre to take steps, to see that the necessary legislation is introduced in Parliament in its next session itself.

The new National Economic Policy and the elimination of controls have, in effect, meant that the responsibility for providing the proper environment for industrial growth, has passed on to the State Government. Provision of satisfactory industrial infrastructure such as power, roads, water, communication etc., calls for investments in the Public Sector of a very large order. The States, therefore, need more resources. My plea is that the Corporation Tax, more than ever before, has to be made shareable with the States. I am sure that the Southern States are united in making the plea, that an amendment should be brought forward at the earliest, to make this Tax shareable with the States.

The Southern States and Tamil Nadu, in particular, have not seen adequate Central investment in the past. The Southern States have individually pleaded for a Southern Gas Grid, to bring natural gas which is being flared at Bombay High. I have pleaded for the inclusion of this project in the Eighth Plan. The issue was referred to an inter-ministerial committee and thereafter, not much progress has been made. When the HBJ gas line was planned, there were the usual doubts. But this did not stand in the way of its implementation. It has proved to be the harbinger of accelerated growth in the West and the North. Let us not be deterred by the size of the investment needed. Such projects have a long-term value of an immeasurable large order, compared to the investment. All the Southern States have a big stake in the project. May I, therefore, suggest that the Southern States come forward to participate financially in this Project, on an agreed basis, so as to make it feasible? Just as in the case of Konkan railway line, we can join together to implement

this project. It will provide the feedstock for new power plants, fertilizer plants, and scores of other units in the South. I am confident we can forge an understanding on this common endeavour. May I also request the Chairman to render all assistance, in helping us to realise this vision of the future, which has the potential of transforming the Southern States?

The Peninsular River Water Grid is another matter, in which the Centre and the Southern States can play a constructive role, in the national interest. It is but appropriate that flood flows going waste to the sea, are harnessed for the benefit of the people in the Southern States. We have inititated bilateral talks with Kerala on the west-flowing rivers and I am sure we can undertake joint endeavours, in a spirit of mutual cooperation. The Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission has assured me, that effective action will be pursued in the Eighth Plan, on the Peninsular River Water Grid. My concern is that it should not be on the drawing board for a long time. Concrete steps are needed to be taken early, on settling the numerous technical questions.

At the last meeting of the National Development Council in May, 1992, I had mooted the idea of a Southern Regional Industrial Development Bank, with headquarters at Madras. This issue has now assumed some urgency, as development financial institutions have been cutting back on the refinance limits, to State Financial Institutions. While improvement of recovery of loans, no doubt, deserves increased importance, a drastic rolling back of refinance limits has meant, that the State Financial Institutions are unable to extend loans to new industrial units, which have already been approved. You will agree with me that such drastic steps undo the very steps that we are striving to take, to accelerate growth. I request that the steps already taken may be reconsidered and the refinance limits restored. I also hope it will be possible to take steps early, for the formation of a Southern Regional Industrial Development Bank, with headquarters at Madras.

Another matter of urgent concern to all of us, is the issue of fertilizer prices. The unprecedented increase in the prices of fertilizers, namely Phosphates and Potash, has come as a rude jolt to the farmers. Our entire Rabi season has been affected. In particular, the prices of Potash have almost trebled. Tamil Nadu is the highest consumer of Potash in the country. I am not unaware of the compulsions to control the fertilizer subsidy and thereby, the fiscal deficit. The Centre has also, no doubt, announced a one-time subsidy to bring down the prices, to a certain extent. Even so, it is indeed disheartening that the prices of Phosphate and Potash have gone up steeply. We are deeply worried about a steep decline in fertilizer use. This is bound to affect farm productivity. We have to find a practical solution to this problem. May I suggest that the increase in prices of fertilizers be made much more gradual and spread over a few years? We are also concerned about the availability of adequate credit to cover the cost of inputs. I thought this would be a useful forum to urge the Centre to take immediate steps, to ensure that banking institutions extend adequate additional credit, to cover the increased cost of fertilizer.

While going through the Notes prepared for this meeting, I find a mention about the increased accrual of resources to the Central Road Fund, based on a resolution of Parliament. While the Centre has received the funds, it has not made available the allotted share to the States. The maintenance and renewal of roads and their upgradation to handle the increased volume of traffic, has become a key issue, particularly when new industrial growth is dependent on sound infrastructure. We have not had a satisfactory reply, as to why the enhanced amounts in the Fund are not being made available to the States. I am sure we can all agree in requesting the Centre to make available these funds, in the current financial year

itself. I would also like to take this opportunity to point out, that the investment on National Highways in the Southern Region, is quite inadequate. I have made a specific request, relating to the formation of the East Coast National Highway and the four-laning of certain National Highways. I am aware that the Centre has tied up external assistance to finance National Highway improvement projects. I would like to request that a reasonable share of allocatioeptf funds, should be made available to the State in the Southern Region".

I agree with suggestion that the Southern States can jointly work together in promoting tourism. Tourism is a key growth industry. Tourism offers good scope for gainful employment. The South can boast of a unique heritage and it has the best potential for becoming a favourite tourist destination. We welcome the concept of Special Tourism Areas. At the same time, it is necessary for the Centre to declare the South as the most favoured destination for foreign tourists and back this with a clear strategy, involving the provision of adequate investment. We shall join in this common endeavour.

I have referred to just a few matters of common interest. I would now like to turn to some of the items listed in the agenda. May I refer to the issue relating to tax rates in Tamil Nadu on Tea and Coffee? Sales Tax rates in Tamil Nadu are among the lowest. We have also restructured the Agriculture Income Tax on plantation crops only recently, on the lines adopted by Kerala and Karnataka. Small growers are fully exempted and the tax is levied only on high income growers. I do not see much scope for downward revision, as taxation rates in Tamil Nadu are low. The States are facing an extremely adverse financial situation and any tax concession at this juncture would be difficult.

There are several issues relating to Road Transport between States, which have been mentioned in the agenda. The problem of taxation on All India Tourist Permits would need to be gone into, in depth, at a meeting of the Transport Ministers. We have to reach an understanding on this issue, to facilitate free tourist flow between the States. We have approached the question of Inter-State Transport in a spirit of mutural cooperation. This would be evident from our willingness to concur with the Government of Karnataka, in the route changes proposed between Bangalore and Pondicherry, passing through Tamil Nadu. It is my view that some reciprocity would have to be imparted, to reach a quick settlement on road transport issues. It is for this reason, we would like to request Karnataka, to accept the existing principle of parity in service kilometerage, in the Inter-State bus routes between two States.

A number of subjects on Science and Technology have been listed in the agenda. There can be no two opinions about the need to promote awareness of Science and Technology. I am entirely in agreement with the view that the Science and Technology councils should be energised, to assume a larger role in popularising Science awareness. We are, in fact, organising the All India Jawaharlal Nehru Science Exhibition at Madras, shortly. We shall give the utmost attention to the implementation of various schemes, to popularise Science and Technology. While on this subject, it is my conviction that we have not done adequately, to be in the forefront of modern Science and Technology. In the Tamil Nadu context, we have to immediately think of large-sized desalination plants powered by solar energy. In a massive effort of this kind, involving venture

capital and frontier technology, it is necessary for the Centre to take early decision, to facilitate the absorption of these new technologies. We have detailed proposals which we are keen to pursue in this regard. I am sure other States would also be interested in these proposals. In the context of the keen interest evinced by the Prime Minister, in the promotion of the use of renewable sources of energy, I hope that the Centre will come forward to provide special financial assistance.

Some issues relating to tribal development have been raised. Thanks to the sustained action we have taken, the system of bonded labour amongst tribals is not prevalent in Tamil Nadu. Even so, strict vigilance is being maintained to prevent any such occurrence. A suggestion has been made, that we should address the problems of dispersed tribals, through a cluster approach. While endorsing this suggestion, I would like to suggest that the cluster should be defined to be one with a population of at least 500. This will enable targetting special programmes for dispersed tribals. We have progressively stepped up the outlay on the Special Component Plan for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and I am glad to indicate that it has reached the level of 17.77% in 1991-92. We shall endeavour to do even better.

I have studied the issues in the agenda on forest offences and the framing of a uniform set of rules on sandalwood. I would like to urge better cooperation between States, in dealing with forest offences. On our part, we shall extend the fullest cooperation. There could be no objection to common sandalwood rules. While on this issue of sandalwood rules, I would like to point out the problems posed by the policy relating to export of sandalwood. A ban on exports has again been implemented from 1st April, 1992. May I request that the ban be lifted?

Before I conclude, I would once again like to express the hope that the Southern Zonal Council will emerge as a model Inter-State forum for better regional cooperation. With the active and full support of the Centre, this can certainly be realised. New relationships, new understandings are being reached worldwide. There is no reason why we cannot establish new bridges of understanding between ourselves, furthering the prosperity of our people.

Thank you.

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Home, Thiru. S.B. Chavan along with his wife, called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at her residence on 9th November, 1992.

TAMIL NADU ANNUAL PLAN OUTLAY

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. J. Jayalalitha had detailed discussions with the Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission Thiru Pranab Kumar Mukherji on Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan for 1993-94 at New Delhi on 14th November 1992. The Chief Minister was accompanied by the State Finance Minister Thiru V.R. Nedunchezhiyan. The Chief Secretary Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, the Finance Secretary Thiru Narayanan, the Planning Secretary Thiru M.B. Pranesh and Thiru S.R. Karuppannan, Secretary to the Chief Minister were also present.

The Chief Minister requested the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission to use his good offices to ensure an early start to the Southern Peninsular River Waters Grid. She wanted this to be taken up for execution as a national project. The Chief Minister also brought to the notice of the Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission the resolve of the Chief Ministers of the Southern States, as reflected in the recent meeting of the Southern Zonal Council, to even jointly cofinance the Southern Gas Grid to bring natural gas to all the southern states. She requested the Deputy Chairman to use his good offices to ensure clearance of this important Project.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister also brought to the notice of the Deputy Chairman the need for urgent clearance of certain major External Aided Projects already proposed by Tamil Nadu. These projects include a school Education Project with an outlay of Rs.1,200 Crores, the Cauvery River Pollution Control Project with an outlay of Rs.320 crores, Tamil Nadu Water Supply-II Project with an outlay of Rs.530 crores. She also requested early consideration of the Cyclone Disastar Management Project and the Irrigation Water Consolidation Project. She also suggested that support from the Global Environmental Fund be obtained for the bio-diversity Protection Project and the Waterways Project.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister brought to the notice of the Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission the special development problems faced by the States. She specifically referred to the coastal area and sea border problem. She also supported for the improvement programmes in Madras City. She particularly stressed the need for a larger share of Central assistance for Tamil Nadu in view of the fact that Tamil Nadu was just on the border of the national average of percapita income. She also requested a greater share of negotiated borrowings for Tamil Nadu for 1993-94. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister requested a special bond issue to finance the Telugu Ganga and the connected Madras City Water Project.

In view of the performance by Tamil Nadu in 1991-92 exceeding the approved Annual Plan outlay and the good record in 1992-93 it was finally decided that the Tamil Nadu Plan for 1993-94 would be Rs.2,101 crores. This reflects a major step up of 20% over the 1992-93 approved plan outlay of Rs.1,751 crores.

The priorities in Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan 1993-94 were also discussed. Agriculture and rural development will be given a special emphasis with a thrust on programmes like integrated watershed development, drought relief and horticulture development. The outlay on agriculture, rural development and irrigation will be stepped up from Rs.432.97 crores to Rs.459.70 crores. There will be a major step up in the outlay on industry and power from Rs.563.50 crores to Rs.658.05 crores. The outlay on transport and communications will be stepped up from Rs.126.74 crores to 299.45 crores. Tamil Nadu's impressive performance in social services will be sustained. The outlay for social services including education, health and nutrition will be stepped up from Rs.611.46 crores to Rs.665.88 crores.

Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan 1993-94 settled at Rs.2,101 crores reflects a substantial step up over the level in 1992-93 and sets the light trajectory for achievement of the Eighth Plan goals.

We have made a good beginning in the Administration of Criminal Justice

- Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

I feel deeply privileged to participate in this national level Conference which is deliberating upon a subject of considerable importance. At the outset, I congratulate the Hon'ble Home Minister for having convened a Conference of this magnitude which according to me was not held in the recent past on an All India basis. No doubt the administration of criminal justice now in vogue and reforms therefor has caused deep concern to all of us for a variety of reasons, over the last decade and more. As such, the initiative taken by the Union Home Minister to have the crime scenario and its allied links in all its facets studied in depth and surveyed on the one side and the corrective measures discussed and deliberated on the other at this conference is a welcome more and necessity too. Further, it is timely and felt need when the crime graph has been on a steep rise, thanks population growth, industrialisation, urbanisation, change in social and moral values, attitude of society to crime and criminals, growing violence proneness and so on and when the disposal of cases by Judiciary has been slow and has not been keeping pace with the arrivals and accumulations. It is heartening to note that the agenda notes have been carefully prepared comprehending the components for administration of criminal justice-such as Police, Prosecuting Staff, Judiciary and Prison and the intricate issues involved in each link and the probable solutions to mitigate the deficiencies. By and large, I am inclined to agree with the most of the issues identified and the possible solutions suggested in the agenda notes. However, I have got some specific remarks to make on certain issues raised here.

After having seen the system of criminal justice in action over a period of time in our country in general and in Tamil Nadu in particular, I could not resist from sharing with you certain reveala-tions and disturbing trends.

Police

a. Formidable forces behind deterioration of peace and public order.

Preservation of peace and tranquility in the current context is providing to be trying and a challenging task for Police. A variety of fissiparous tendencies, disruptive forces, extremist movements and ideologies are complicating the task relating to the maintenance of Law and Order. Though Tamil Nadu was fairly free from major Law and Order problems in the past unlike some other States, the trend towards deterioration of Law and Order was evident before the present AIADMK Government took over. The rise of militants, free hand given to the LTTE cadres, by the erstwile DMK Government, growth of communal groups, steady rise of Revolutionary youth Front Movements and large scale unemployment are some of the major factors which contribute to the disturbing scenario. The new Government, which assumed office in June 91 took all efforts to restore law and order in Tamil Nadu on a high priority basis. A clear-cut and pragmatic approach of the Government, in thwarting the threat posed by the militants and the relentless and increasing operations conducted to cleanse them have helped in combing and continuing the extremists activities in the State in large measure. A relentless drive against the etremists by increasing the vigil on the coast line, unearthing ammunition dens and illegal arms depots, applying rigorous laws against smuggling and terrorist and distruptionist activities creating an awareness in the minds of people of the country has put a brake to the further advance of these militants.

In our efforts to curb, control and contain the activities of Sri Lankan militants/LTTEs the response, reaction and support of the Government of India in terms of money, man-power and intelligence is substantial and solid. But for such assistance, our Police would not have tackled them easily. Thanks to the assistance given,

we have gone far ahead to modernise our Police force in terms of arms, ammunitions, communication, mobility etc. But still, we have got a long way to go. While I hasten to express my hearty thanks to the Home Minister for all his support and assistance in this connection, I bank upon him to a great deal more to proceed further in the process of modernisation of Police force in Tamil Nadu, particularly when the threat of militants/LTTEs has not completely abated but still persists. As such, there is no room for complacency. LTTE is a terrorist outfit having links with international Terrorist Organisations. They have adequate and trained committed cadre strength with all tactics of devastation. All types of sophisticated arms and explosive devices are with them. The following eventualities are still not ruled out.

i. Assasination of VIPs and Officials.

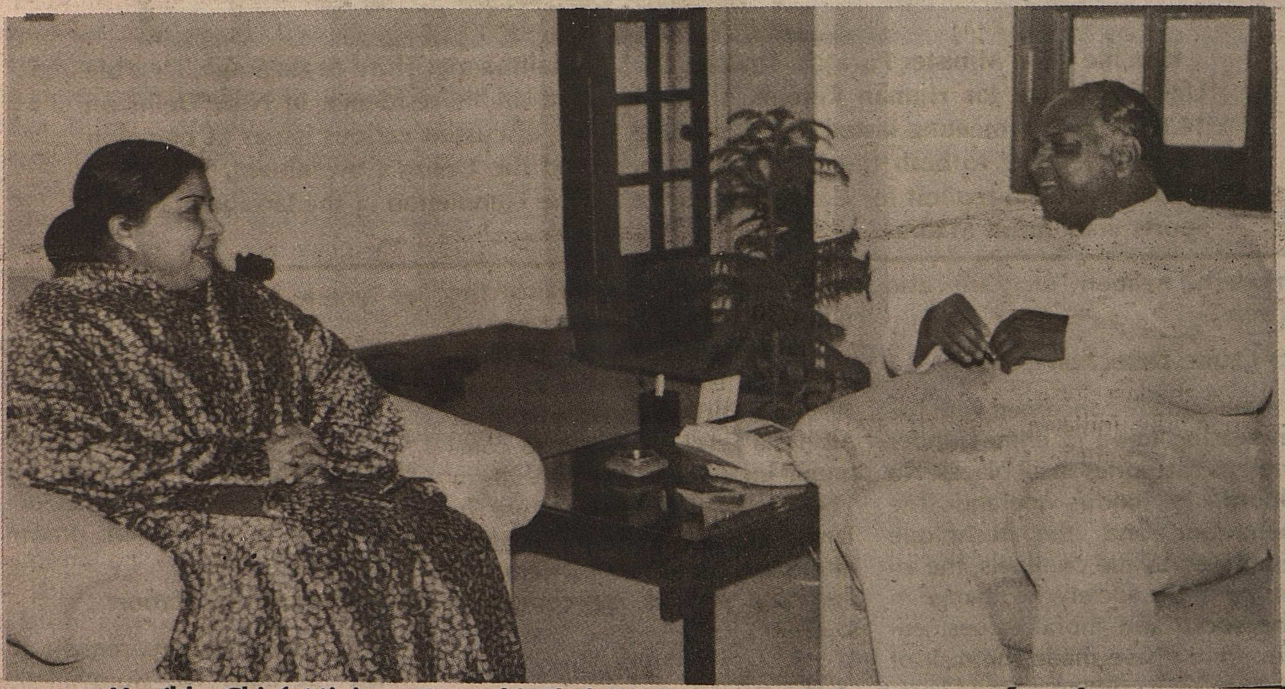
ii. Sabotage of vital installation and important Government buildings.

iii. Jail breaks.

iv. Harrassment of Indian fishermen.

v. Creating serious law and order problem in Tamil Nadu, instigating their local supporters and extremists, some of whom have already been trained by LTTE.

Therefore alertness of intelligence machinery and vigorous drive have to be continued without any let up. Preventing their nefarious activities and close follow up is a continuous process to be ensured.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha met Thiru Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence at his residence in New Delhi on 14.11.1992. The meeting lasted for an hour. They discussed various issues of common interest, relating to both the State Government and the Union Government. The Chief Minister made a special request for stepping up of the Naval presence along the Tamil Nadu Coast line.

b) Security System

When the existing police force has been fully stretched in the collection of intelligence and in the enforcement of law and order in the State, the same agency could not be utilised for providing the requisite quality of security to various VVIPs including the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who is still subject to a high degree of threat perception from the militants. In-order to combat terrorism created by various militant groups and to ensure a foolproof and sophisticated security to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and other VVIPs, the security set up has been strengthened in the State by forming a dedicated task force called "Special Security Group" (SSG). The S.S.G. is strengthened by imparting specialised training to police personnel, purchase of sophisticated arms, purchase of special gadgets, equipments etc. formation of exclusive Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads, Sniffer Dogs etc. The force in the Special Security Group have been trained in specialised course like P.S.O. courses, VIP Security Courses, Bomb detection and Disposal Courses. Further pre-induction courses in handling

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha met Thiru Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resources Development at his residence in New Delhi on 14.11.1992. The meeting lasted for 30 minutes. They discussed various issues of common interest, relating to both the State Government and the Union Government. The Chief Minister made a request for Central assistance for the completion of the Jawaharal Nehru Sports Stadium in Madras.

modern weapon etc. are also given.

c) Crime Detection

I am equally concerned with the increasing trend in crimes under various categories in all places. No doubt, the modus operandi, the behaviour and the technique employed by the criminals, the attitude of the society,the change in the social 'and moral values, environment have made the task of police men difficult and complicated in the detection of crimes. To keep pace with such demanding situations the police force has to be modernised; scientific methods and services offered; institutional and practical training given and professional approach and techniques employed. Comparing the All India average, I am happy to convey that the performance of Tamil Nadu is far superior. Percentage of detection in property offences during 1991, Tamil Nadu scored 64%. Coming to the percentage increase in 1990 over 1986 in Tamil Nadu under IPC crimes it is plus 13.3 against the figure of 14.1 at All India Level. In case of violent crimes, the increase in Tamil Nadu is 221% in 1990 over 1953 as against 327% at All India Level. In regard to communal incidents, it was only 289 in 1990. Another special feature in Tamil Nadu is the low percentage of crime against SC/ST. There is a declining trend in 1991 compared to 1987.

d) Tamil Nadu Uniformed Service Recruitment Board

For the past few years, recruitment of police force was not at all done, with the result that a number of vacancies remained unfilled. Dearth of adequate men had its adverse effect in the working and service of the police force. After the new Government took over, a recuitment board exclusively to recruit uniformed service men was constituted and the Board is in the hot pursuit of recruitment process including the backlong left over for some years.

e) Temple Protection Force

To prevent theft of idols and valuables in temples and to safeguard the interest of temples, a separate force consisting of around 4000 men is organised by recruiting men through T.N.U.S.R. Board and by recruitment drawn from Ex-servicemen.

f) Women Police Station

To look after the requirement of weaker sections viz. women, all women police station concept was conceived and as a trial measure, all women police station was started in the metropolitan city and is being extended to other major cities and District Headquarters. This experiment is encouraging and is in demand for other areas as well so that the women aggrieved can freely approach women police stations and get redressal of their grievances.

JUDICIARY AND PROSECUTION

I am inclined to share the anxiety of the Government of India in

looking at the distressing and disturbing trend of mounting arrears in criminal courts including the courts in Tamil Nadu. Still more disturbing is to witness the release of persons in heinous crimes and known criminals on bail, inreasing rate of acquittals, and failure to deal with influential criminals, by Courts. Moreover, criminals are going unpunished; Deterrent effect of Law is on the wane; Supremacy of the law is underminded by criminals. Such situations no doubt will contribute to the loss of public faith and confidence in the system. In this connection, it is needless to emphasise that qualitative investigation and qualitative prosecution must be the requisite order so that cases do not fail in Courts of Law. In the process of prosecution, due cooperation and coordination coupled with a team spirit between the investigating agency and prosecuting staff and due legal advice and guidance to the investigating agency from the beginning should be ensured for the success of criminal cases in the Courts of Law. In this connection, may I suggest some guidelines or even some amendments to the existing law to avoid indiscriminate grant of bails and to suggest some checks and balances while granting bail. Numerous illustrations can be cited to show how several accused by granting bail indiscriminately happened to be killed right infront of the Courts by their opponents on their release. But grant of bail need not discriminate against poor and down- trodden. Similarly the provisions of granting anticipatory bail may warrant a relook. By virtue of these provision, a criminal can totally avoid the prospect of arrest and detention. As such, the devices available gives much protection to the criminals than necessary.

Comparing the working of the Courts in the country, the performance in Tamil Nadu may be said to be satisfactory. In this connection I may mention that only 29% of the total IPC offences ended in acquittal in 1990 as against the All India figure of 51%. Similarly, in respect of murder, 47% ended in acquittal in Tamil Nadu as against 59% at the All India Level.

The position in Tamil Nadu, regarding the adequacy of prosecuting staff and their style of functioning is fairly alright. Almost all courts have been, assigned prosecutor. Between the prosecuting staff and investigating agency, there will be periodical meeting for interaction convened by the Superintendent of Police. Assistance Public Prosecutor Grade I (Administration) will be rendering legal advice to the Superintendent of Police and the Collector. Similar advice is available by Assistant Public Prosecutor at the lower level also. In this connection, I am happy to convey that the Government of Tamil Nadu has set up a new head of Department known as Director of Prosecution with a view to coordinate and monitor the conduct of cases by the prosecuting staff in the courts at the District levels.

Similarly, as regards cases handled in the High Court and the Supereme Court, the setting up a monitoring agency is in a process of being implemented.

Opening of New Courts.

The judicial system in Tamil Nadu has received a great impetus during the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 when the present Government took over. This period witnessed the induction of more than 24 Courts in all at various levels. These include, District and Sessions Courts, Sub-Courts, Labour Courts, Judicial Magistrate Courts, Special Court for dealing with Sandal Wood cases arising under the Forest Acts and more importantly Designated Courts to deal with offences arising under terrorists laws.

I might also add that so far as Designated Courts are concerned, special Public Prosecutors are appointed to conduct the prosecution in these Courts.

JUDICIARY-A PLAN SCHEME

The budget outlay was only Rs.30 crore per annum before this Government came to power, whereas now it increased to Rs.44 crore within 1½ years of its assumption of office.

In this connection, I have got all my pat and praise for the Government of India for inclusion of this sector under Plan Schemes. This will be a major breakthrough for the growth and development of the Judicial systems.

At the instance of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu has formulated schemes for an outlay of Rs.123.37 crore and has forwarded the same for allocation of funds.

PRISONS

Prison is a place arranged for reception and detention of prisoners and offenders either before trial, or on conviction. While discussing this item, I am inclined to agree with most of the recommendations with marginal deviation with reference to the position in Tamil Nadu. In the matter inadequacy of District jails and subjails in the Country, Tamil Nadu stands almost in a better footing. There are 8 Central Jails and 114 Sub jails besides the other categories of jails. Two seperate jails are operating for the benefit of Women Prisoners exclusively. The jails situated within a radious of 25 to 35 kms. whose total capacity is around 18,000 persons against which the average inmates is around 10,000.

There are two training institutions - one for training the Warders and other for Jail Officers. The scheme of modernisation of jail administration and its

implementation has been taken up with all seriousness with an outlay of Rs.864 lakh assisted by Government of India as well as by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a forward step to instal security alarm in six Central Jails at an outlay of Rs.90.67 lakh to prevent the escape of prisoners.

No doubt the existing infrastructure facilities and the services available in prisons warrant improvement and additions. A lot more is to be done to improve the welfare of prisoners and the atmosphere in prisons. There should be a pucca arrangement for managing sudden inflow of prisoners swelling thousands and thousands particularly when strikes, picketing, and demonstrations are launched by political parties, labourers and organised groups.

At present, adhoc arrangements are made to erect temporary structures and katcha facilities to meet the situation. In as much as this kind of sudden inflow has been frequent, some pucca measures can be thought of.

I am one with the emphasis that the prisons should also function to reform, rehabilitate and resocialise the criminals detained. In this connection, I am inclined to quote Dr. Kumarappa who had said "We must discard all our notions about the criminal being considered a criminal at all. He must be considered a victim of social circumstances, a person requiring treatment rather than punishment".

Number of Committees were appointed to go into the various problems of prison and the measures therefor. Various studies and surveys were made in the field of treatment of offenders. Some of such studies like Indian Jail Committee report, Report of all India Jail Committee, Report on Jail Administration in India by Walter C. Reckless, Report of the working group on prison reforms merit attention. In addition, there are a number of reports of State Level Inquiry Committee connected with the working of prisons in different States. All these have considered the question of prison reform and have given number of valuable suggestions and recommendations.

According to me, a comprehen sive view may be taken on all these recommendations and seriously implement such of those recommendations which are relevant and useful in the current context.

Coming to the Jail Manuals, some of the provisions are out dated and obsolate. It is high time to make them upto date provisions and responsive to the present requirements. There are different Jail Manuals for different States of the Country which lay down different rules and provisions. This has created a problem and confusion as well. In order to have some effective reforms, there must be a uniform code for all the prisons in the country with the options for the States to make rules in conformity depending upon the special nature of the problem or situation if any. An attempt can be made in this direction.

TRAINING NEEDS

Training ensures enhancement of skill and improvement of professionalism. As such it needs no emphasis. Training for police personnel, prosecuting staff and judicial officers are quite welcome. As far as the Tamil Nadu is concerned, there is a Police Training College to train Police personnel. The Assistant Public Prosecutors on appointment are given training. Similarly the District Munisiff-cum-Magistrates on appointment, are given training for 6 months. According to me, the available facilities and the training content do not appear to be adequate and upto date.

Tamil Nadu is contemplating to go for organising a Police Academy with broader purpose and perspective. This may amply serve the purpose. Similarly setting up of a National Academy for training Judicial Officers is a welcome step and a felt need. The training curriculam should be a continuous process and the personnel concerned should be periodically brushed up by apt and adequate input.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

In the agenda notes, number of legislative changes have been proposed. They deserve an indepth discussion and deliberation. In this connection I may suggest to this forum to discuss the following legislative measures:-

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 437 Cr. P.C.

Criminals who habitually indulge in serious offences against the society such as snatching of chains, auto-thefts and robbery are being released by the Court inspite of the fact that it is orally brought to the notice of the Court about their involvement in previous cases pending trails or under investigations eventhough their bad antecedents are let in, Courts do not take cognizance of it and this emboldens such persons who after their release indulge in commission of similar offences repeatedly.

In order to effectively prevent such persons from continuously committing such kind of offences and causing panic in the minds of public, release of such persons on bail by the Court has to be made very stringent. For this purpose, an amendment to Section 437(1) Cr.P.C. running as follows would be helpful.

... After the words, "or he has been previously convicted on two or more occasions of a non-bailable and cognizable offences" the following provison may be added.

"If there is material to suggest that he will misuse his liberty and indulge in the commission of such offences or similar cognizable and non- bailable offences in the event of his release".

In the alternative, an amendment to introduce the follwing wordings after the word, 'convicted' and before the words "on two or more occasions" may also help:- "or concerned (Police case under investigation or a case pending trial)"

This would enable such pending trial or under investigation cases to be cited for the purpose of denying him bail.

AMENDMENT TO SEC. 151 Cr.P.C.

There is a need to detain some accused for a period longer than 24 hours by way of preventive detention. Present section of 151 Cr.P.C. does not enable the accused to be detained beyond 24 hours in Police custody and the accused are to be remanded. Courts are generally reluctant to grant police custody of the accused. The scope of 151 Cr.P.C. can be widened if an amendment on the pattern brought out by Maharashtra Government, is restored to. The amendment envisages detention of persons arrested for more than 24 hours on certain special circumstances prejudicial to public order.

The next amendment is to prevent indiscriminate release on bail for certain accused whose antecedents are bad and whose security is in peril.

The efficacy of any instrument depends upon how best it is used. For the best administration of criminal justice, the four instruments - police, prosecuting personnel, judiciary and jails should be used efficiently and effectively to reap the optimum benefit. I think we have made a good beginning. Still there is a long way to go.

(Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 'Administration of Criminal Justice', read out by the Minister for Law, Thiru. K.A. Krishnasamy at the Chief Ministers' Conference at New Delhi on 13th November, 1992.)

STATE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Tamil Nadu Government has constituted a State Council for Higher Education, following the enactment of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education Act, 1992.

The main functions of the council will be to promote cooperation and coordination of higher education institutions to encourage innovations in curriculum development to coordinate among universities, colleges and other higher education institutions and to facilitate training of teachers in universities and colleges.

The Council will encourage sports, games, physical education and cultural activities, identify centres of excellence in the universities and assist the UGC for determination and maintenance of standards and suggest remedial measures wherever necessary.

The Council will have the Minister for Education as its Chairman and Thiru S.V. Chittibabu former Vice-Chancellor, Madurai Kamaraj and Annamalai Universities as Vice-Chairman.

The following have been named ex-officio Members of the Council. The Secretary, Education Department, the Secretary, Finance Department, the Secretary, University Grant Commission for his nominee, Commissioner of Collegiate Education and the Director of Technical Education.

Thiru K. Aludiapillai, a retired IAS official, will be the Member-Secretary. The other Members are Dr.Malcom Adiseshiah, Educationalist, Dr.V.Srinivasan, former Director of Technical Education, Thiru A.C. Muthiah, Industrialist and Chairman, SPIC, Dr. S. Muthukumaran, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University and Dr. K.S. Lakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, Mother Teresa Women's University.

THE SELF RESPECT - HERO SIVAGANGAI RAMACHANDRANAR

When a proper History of the 'Drividian - Movement - and Self Respect Movement' gets chronicled and the galaxy of its leaders Portrayed, Sivagangai Ramachandranar is amongst important persons to enlist under Periyar banner. The great talismanic word in 1925, which will open the gates to freedom socially and politically is the word 'Self-Respect' as mentioned by the Editor of 'Justice' in 1927. The dynamic personality of the hero of Vaikkam, Thanthai Periyar, started the Movement to rouse the downtrodden Backward Classes of the Society, to a sense of their father position -Sivagangai Ramachandranar a strong pillar of the Movement from 1916 till his sudden death.

Late Ramachandranar, B.A., B.L., Advocate, passed his Matriculation from Trivandrum High School, Trivandrum, his F.A. from Madura College, Madurai and tooks his B.A. degree from the St. Joseph's College, Trichy. In the year 1913, he joined the Law College, Madras and two years after, took his B.L. Degree in 1915. Prior to joining the Law College he worked as School Teacher in Sethupathy High School, Madurai for few months.

In the year 1915, he went to Madurai and set up practice in law and in the year 1916 came over to his native place, Sivaganga and set up practice.

In his infancy and school days, he exhibited his Sports - games -

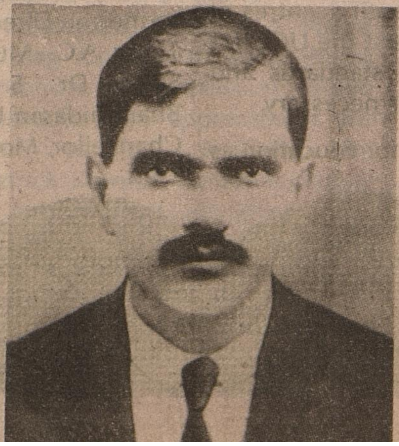
S.R. Ramachandran, B.E.,

excellence and to his credit, he secured several Laurels, Cups, etc.

Hailing from very backward Agamudaiyar Community (Thevar Community) he was born on 16.9.1884 in Ramnad District, Tiruppattur Taluk, A. Thakkoor Village. His father Subramani Servai and Mother Sangamirtham.

His family had made a great mark even during East India Company. His illustrious great grand father Subramaniam Servai Karar, heading the Sivaganga Zami Army, defeated the Pudukottai forces in three pitched battles. Piran Malai, near to A. Thakkoor, was awarded to the Servai family by Sivaganga Zamindar in recognition of the success in the battles to ensure boundary lines.

In 1925, he was a delegate from Madras presidency to the All India Non- Brahmin Conference held in Amroati under the Presidentship of the great Statesman, the Raja of Panagal.



In the Provincial Non-Brahmin Conference held at Madurai on 25.12.1926 and 26.12.1926, he played in important part. A.P. Pathro presided.

I-st Prohibition Conference under Drividian Movement was conducted at Erode on 10.5.1930 and 11.5.1930 along with the 2nd Provincial Self Respect Conference and Sivaganga Ramachandranar had the unique honour to preside over the I-st Temparance Conference. Thiru M.R. Jayakar presided over Self Respect Conference. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, presided over Women Liberation Conference. In his Presidential address Sivaganga Ramachandranar suggested various ways and means to educate the Society about the evils of Alcohol and implement the Temperance Policy. In the historic - I-st Provincial Self Respect Conference held at Chengalpattu on 17.2.1929. Ramachandranar moved the following vital resolution.

Resolution

"This Conference condemn the Pernicious doctrine of Varnashrama which divides the Hindu Society into Brahmins, Shatriyas, Vysias and Sudras and Panchamas and request the people not to recognise these divisions and to give up the adding of prefixes and suffixes to names to connote castes and community and to discontinue the caste marks on the fore-heads and other religious threads".

The State Government also can urge the centre to take steps to provide for in the constitution, the total eradication of Caste system, similar to the abolition of Untrouchability. Till the inbalances and inequalities exist in Society, the Reservations for the weaker section are absolutely essential to uphold the Dravidian Movement Principle of Social Justice.

This historic resolution was seconded by Periyar. The leaders openly declared on the plat-form, to give up, Servai, Nadar, Naicker and Chettiar etc.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. P. Subbarayan, Thanthai Periyar and the Justice Party Ministers and all S.F. partymen participated in the Conference.

In the 3rd Provincial Self Respect Conference held at Virudhunagar. Ramachandranar moved the resolution urging the Government, both Central and State, not to be blind to the Socio - religious atrocities in the name, of Secular State.

While presiding over the 2nd Tirunelveli District Self Respect Conference at Tirunelveli, on 20.7.1929 and 21.7.1929 Ramachandranar declared Thanthai Periyar as Buddha.

In the Provincial Non-Brahmin Special conference at Coimbatore on 18.7.1927 and 19.7.1927, he stressed the equalisation of opportunities in Education and Employment for the Weaker Section of the Society.

As President of Sivagangai Taluk Board in 1927 to 1929, he implemented in filling up all vacancies to the Weaker Section and in throwing open Taluk Board Schools to the Adi-Dravidar boys.

His visit to the Harijan Areas not only helped douse the last embers of the communal flare - up, but helped to refurbish and restore about a metamorphosis in the thinking of the various sections of the Society. He brought together the communities of the Harijan, and Caste - Hindus which had remained at daggers drawn.

Periyar portrayed Ramachandranar as a champion of Socially Backward and downtrodden people, objective Rationalist and tireless fighter for Social Injustice, in his condolence Editorial in Kudiarasu at the time of his sudden demise on 26.2.1933.

Perarignar Anna, while opening 'Ramachandranar Memorial Park' at Sivaganga on 25.2.1948, paid high tributes to him and appealed to the people to emulate him.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, named the Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar District Government Hospital as 'Ramachandranar District Hospital' in recognition of the great service rendered by Ramachandranar.

Harijans were engaged as cooks in his house to uphold the high principle of Social Equality and eradication of Untouchability.

According to 'Encyclopaedia of South India and Ceylon' - 1937-38, Ramachandranar had established poor students hostels and night school for the Youth of Harijans. His eldest daughter was admitted in Soosaiyappar School for Education alongwith Harijan youths.

Also he gave huge amounts of money for the purpose, from his own personal earnings.

As president of Ramnad Devasthanam Committee, he nominated and appointed one most backward Nadar candidate Thiru P.S. Chidambara Nadar as a member of the Committee. The other members were, the Raja of Chettinadu, and Sethupathi Raja of Ramnad and others.

In those days, Nadars were treated with most humiliating manner and they could not think to enter the temples.

In 1932, June, due to his illness he convened a special Devasthanam Committee Meeting and made Thiru V.V.Ramasamy Nadar as successor Presient of the Committee which was an achievement for the Self Respect movement and it was hailed by Periyar and Self Respect Movement leaders. He was held in high esteem by the Justice Party leader and he was invited by Hon'ble Chief Minister, P. Muniswamy to join the Cabinet during the tenure from 17.10.1930 to 4.11.1932. But after consulting Thanthai Periyar, he expressed his inability to accept the offer as his services and real works were essentially required for the party in the Southern Region. Also it was mentioned that Sir. P.T. Thiagarayar, declared to accept to head the Justice Party Government as Chief Minister in 1920, when first massive victory was secured by the party in the election.

THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, reviewed the performance of the Agriculture Development and Crop Prospects in Tamil Nadu on 29th October, 1992.

Thiru. Ku. Pa. Krishnan, Minister for Agriculture, Thiru. T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., Chief Secretary, Thiru. S.R. Karuppannan, I.A.S., Secretary to Chief Minister, Thiru. V. Ramamurthi, I.A.S., Chairman, Tamil Nadu Cooperative Oilseeds Growers' Federation, Thiru. S. Rangamani, I.A.S., Managing Director, ENCOFED, Thiru. N. Narayanan, I.A.S., Secretary, Finance, Thiru. R.C. Panda, I.A.S., Special Secretary, Agriculture, Thiru. N. Govindan, I.A.S., Director of Agriculture, Thiru. R. Sriram I.A.S., Commissioner of Horticulture, Thiru. S. Krishnaswamy, Chief Engineer (Agricultural Engineering), Thiru. R. Rathinasamy, I.A.S., Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation, Dr. Ramasamy, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Thiru. N.M. Abdul Samad, Director of Seed Certification participated in the review meeting.

The Chief Minister gave the following instructions to give a better thrust in the agricultural production and improve the farmers' income in the agricultural sector.

★ All the barren, arid, and fallow lands in the State should be brought under cultivation through appropriate cropping technology for agro-forestry, Horticulture and other rainfed agricultural crops.

★ Micro irrigation systems like Sprinkler and Drip irrigation should be encouraged for Horticulture and other commercial crops.

★ In Horticulture, vegetable development should be given top priority particularly in the sub-urban areas Metropolitan and major towns like Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchy, Salem and Tirunelveli. A package cultivation, develpment and marketing of

★ Modern agricultural practices for efficient water management should be imparted to the agriculturalist in the villages through a broad based agricultural extension systems using the existing T&V and other training programmes.

★ A long term strategy should be evolved to take up alternative cropping system in case of deficient rainfall and inadequate irrigation facilities.

vegetable should be designed to eleminate the middlemen and obtain maximum return to the cultivating farmers should be worked out.

★ Horticulture developments in dry land and rainfed areas including Lime, Lemon, Citrus fruits, Guava and cheaper varieties of fruits should be undertaken.

★ The fertilizers should be made available to the farmers through all channels at the cheapest possible rates availing the Government of India concession.

★ Backward Districts like Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar etc. should be given due priority in agriculture, horticulture and agro-engineering schemes.

★ Desalinated water should also be utilised for the irrigation of high value crops. In this regard Public Works Department, TWAD and Agriculture Departments should work out a strategy in close coordination.

★ New variety of scented rice named as 'JJ-92' having equal qualities of Basumati rice will be released shortly for commerical cultivation.

★ The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed that additional Rs.10 lakh funds should be allotted for distribution of coconut seedlings to the school children of the VI Standard under Puratchi Thalaivi Coconut Seedling distribution scheme for School children to cover 60,000 more school children of VI Standard.

★ The National Dairy Development Board assisted Fruits and Vegetable projects to be implemented in Madras at a cost of Rs.45 crore, should be designed to transfer maximum consumer price to the producers.

The achievements and highlights

All time highest rice production (71.07 lakh tonnes) was recorded for the year 1991-92, the previous highest being only 60.63 lakh tonnes during 1989-90. Tamil Nadu occupies the first place in the country in terms of productivity of oilseeds (942 kgs. per hectare), millets specially Cholam (1184 kgs per hectare), Cumbu (1112 kgs per hectare), Sugarcane (104 mt per hectare) in respect of rice, Tamil Nadu stands second (3088 kgs) next only to Punjab. In coconut production also Tamil Nadu ranks second (10000 nuts per hectare) only next to West Bengal.

Utilising the timely release of water from Mettur and supply of inputs, an all time high coverage of 8.72 lakh ha. has been brought under Paddy against the usual coverage of 6 lakh ha. during Kharif 1992.

The Integrated Programme for Rice Development has been extended to all 20 Districts with an enlarged outlay of Rs.10.85 crore. Special Foodgrains Production Programme for Jowar and Ragi has been extended to 15 Districts and 17 Districts respectively at a cost of Rs.1.26 crore.

Rs.34 crore fertiliser concession for 45 lakh farmers.

To off set the price increase of Di-Ammonium phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and complex fertilisers due to decontrol, Government of India has introduced Fertiliser concession scheme for all farmers. Rs.1000 per MT of concession will be passed on to farmers for DAP and MOP. With regard to Complex, concession will vary from Rs.500 to Rs.999 per MT on the basis of Phosphate content in the Complex. Rs.34.32 crore have been allotted to Tamil Nadu for granting concession to 4 lakh tonnes of fertiliser benefitting 45 lakh farmers cultivating in 40 lakh hectares of land.

Earlier in the year, a separate fertiliser subsidy scheme for small and marginal farmers with an outlay of Rs.54 crore was implemented in Tamil Nadu through Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Feferation (TANFED), Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation (TAI) and Tamil Nadu Agro Engineering and Service Cooperative Federation Limited (ENCOFED).

PROMOTION OF OILPALM CULTIVATION

Tamil Nadu has the potentiality of covering 15,000 ha. under oilpalm cultivation. Preliminary works to set up 2 nurseries have been initiated. 25,000 sprouted

oilpalm nuts have already been sown at Pattukottai. 3.4 lakh oilpalm hybrid seed sprouts will be imported from Costa Rica in November 1992 to facilitate Oil Palm Nursery Programme at a cost of Rs.1.07 crore to cover an area of 2000 ha.

Another thrust area is the Oilseeds production with special emphasis to Sunflower cultivation by doubling the present area of 25,000 ha. to 50,000 ha. 18 tonnes of hybrid seeds of Sunflower was procured through Tamil Nadu Cooperative Oilseeds Growers Federation (TANCOF) and distributed. To utilise the high protein content available in Soya in the form of flour, Soya milk and Soya Oil, an ambitious programme has been launched to cover 50,000 ha. under Soyabean cultivation.

GROWERS COOPERATIVE FOR OILSEEDS DEVELOPMENT

TANCOF will be implementing Oilseeds Development Programme to cover 1000 Oilseeds Growers Cooperative Societies to assist about 4 lakh oilseeds growers with the financial assistance of Rs.40 crore from National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). TANCOF will also be implementing a Soyabean Development Programme at a cost of Rs.10 crore. The groundnut breeder seed development programme with an outlay of Rs.2 crore will be implemented by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) at Kumulur in Tiruchirapalli District. All these new projects will improve the oilseeds production in Tamil Nadu by about 5 lakh tonnes and benefit about 10 lakh farmer-families in the State.

RAINFED AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

★ The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas has been taken up as a five year project at a total cost of Rs.35.61 crore in 84 blocks of 14 Districts. Out of a target area of 89,000 hectares, in last one and half years 17,400 hectares have been treated with soil and moisture conservation measures. Further under World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Agriculture Development Project, an area of 54,000 ha. under Palar and Vellar Watersheds is being covered alongwith 36,000 ha. in 12 Districts at a total cost of Rs.47.32 crore.

To combat drought in a sustainable basis through space application and remote sensing, Samalpatti Watershed Development Programme in Mathur and Uthangarai Blocks of Dharmapuri district has been launched for implementation in VIII Plan period. Project Planning for water resources, agricultural and land resources and fodder resources development and management has been completed. Union Planning Commission is integrating existing on going programmes for the development of this watershed.

During last 1½ years under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) Rs.930 lakh have been utilised for undertaking integrated drought proofing works in restoring ecological balance, conserving soil and water and developing afforestation and pastures in 30,000 hectares.

Raising of Perrennial Tree Crops and sowing of Annual intercrops is in progress to cover an extent of 10,000 ha. of fallow lands with the cost of Rs.150 lakh in 17 districts.

A Tree Growers Cooperative Project with an outlay of Rs.6 crore covering 10,000 ha. lands in 100 villages will be implemented to benefit mainly rural women dependant on fuel wood. The project will be assisted by NDDB, National Wasteland Development Board and National Tree Growers Cooperative Federation.

RELEASE OF JJ-92 - A NEW SCENTED RICE

In Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Rice Research Centre at Aduthurai a new variety of scented rice has been evolved which will be released to farmers during Pongal 1993. This variety (Code No. AD 90190) is equal to Basumati rice, with yield capacity of 3.3 MT per hectare.

TNAU has released two coconut hybrids (VCH1 and VCH2) for propagation in Cauvery delta. In the whole country these two are the first hybrid coconut varieties evolved by TNAU.

APPLICATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Biofertiliser, Biopesticides and Biomass development has become part of integrated agricultural input management programme in Tamil Nadu. 400 MT of Biofertilisers are being marketed in Tamil Nadu. To meet the increasing demand of Biofertilisers, two more Government units have been opened at Kudumiamalai and Salem with a capacity to produce 20 lakh packets per annum. 3 private organisations have taken up Biofertiliser production and distribution. Others will be encouraged to put up Biofertiliser units. Tamil Nadu is a pioneering State in the integrated chemical and biological pest control and management systems. A proposal to establish two integrated Pest Management Centres at Madurai and Thanjavur at a total cost of Rs.91.82 lakh has been sent to Government of India for clearance. Further TNAU has submitted a proposal to Government of India on the promotion of agricultural biotechnology costing Rs.130 crore with emphasis on employment generation, cost reduction in farm operations through Agro-Consortium of small industries in the area of produc-

tion of biofertilisers, bio-pesticides, bio- energy etc.

FREE COCONUT SAPPLING TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

A new scheme on the free distribution of coconut seedlings to school children for creating awareness among younger generation at a cost of Rs.5 lakh for 30,000 coconut seedlings in 10 districts has been launched.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES PRO JECT FOR MADRAS CITY

A Fruits and Vegetables Project with an outlay of Rs.45 crore has been agreed to be funded by NDDB, from 1993-94 to market fruits, vegetables, flowers and spices in 10 big shops and 150 retail outlets in Madras city. The project will have one Central processing Unit at Madras and a banana cold storage at Tiruchirapalli. This will be linking one lakh horticultural farmers with about 30 lakh consumers of Madras city.

ICAR NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE ON BANANA

Government of India has sanctioned this NRC on Banana to be set up at Podavur in Tiruchirapalli district with an initial outlay of Rs.2 crore.

BEAUTIFICATION OF BOTANICAL GARDEN AT OOTY

★ Involving a glass house, architecturally designed entrance arch, ornamental foot-path and other tourist friendly infrastructures are being implemented with Indo-German Development Fund at a cost of Rs.71.5 lakh. Treatment of watersheds in the catchment area of Ooty lake to prevent soil erosion and siltation of lake has been taken up at a cost of Rs.90 lakh by Agricultural Engineering Department.

★ 21 temples have been identified for taking up Nandavanam Development Programme for

meeting fruits and flowers needs of the temples.

★ Development of existing horticultural gardens with micro-irrigation systems is being implemented at a cost of Rupees one crore. This would help about 20,000 farmers in the State.

HORTICULTURAL EXPORT PROMOTION ZONES

★ Dharmapuri District for mangoes, Tiruchirappalli District for bananas and Madurai area for grapes have been identified as potential areas for export of Horticultural produce. Necessary proposals are being prepared for approaching Government of India to set up Horticultural Export Promotion Zones in the above areas.

★ A detailed techo-economic survey on prospects of Horticultural production involving fruits, vegetables and spices has been launched. Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) has taken up the survey with the funds of National Horticultural Board (NHB).

SMALL FARMER'S AGRO-BUSINESS CONSORTIUM IN DHARMAPURI DISTRICT

On the basis of Hon'ble Chief Minister's suggestion, Government of India have approved to set up 'Small Farmer's Agro-Business Consortium' in Dharmapuri District. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation is preparing the Model Plan for the Consortium with UNDP assistance. Under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, a core team at the State level will coordinate the said Consortium Project Planning, implementation and monitoring.

EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS

Five externally aided projects at a total outlay of Rs.330 crore are being implemented for broad based agricultural development, treatment of degraded land with soil conservation and agro-forestry works and training of farm women in new agricultural skills and Post harvest technologies.

★ World Bank aided Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project (TNADP) is being implemented with an outlay of Rs.309.29 crore. Rs.14.54 crore have already been spent and additionally Rs.40 crore will be spent in the current year. This multi-sector project helps in agricultural planning and broad-based extension, seed production, watershed and livestock development, and forest conservation. It also provides rural roads and rural water supply for the agriculturally important districts in the State.

★ 11,400 farm women have been trained in 6 Districts in various improved techniques of agriculture under DANIDA aided Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture Project (TANWA). This project has an outlay of Rs.4.12 crore.

★ Planting of 90 lakh trees at a cost of Rs.175 lakh has been taken up in the degraded wastelands under the Agro Forestry Programme with SIDA assistance.

★ 5725 ha. of problem lands affected by wind-erosion, etc. have been brought under Comprehensive Watershed Development Project (CWDP) with help of DANIDA

at a cost of Rs.6.47 crore in Nellai-Kattabomman and Chidambaranar Districts.

★ Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) aided post-harvest technology for farm women is being implemented through Avinashilingam Deemed University at a cost of Rs.25 lakh to train 25,000 farm women in 8 districts on the preservation and post-harvest methodology of foodgrains.

FIVE PROJECTS WITH EXTERNAL AID FROM 1993-94

There are 5 externally aided projects in the advancd stages of finalisation and sanction by various donor agencies. They are as follows:-

a) World Bank aided Agricultural Human Resources Development Project.

b) European Economic Community (EEC) aided Agricultural Marketing Development Project with an outlay of Rs.20.35 crore.

c) EEC assisted Coconut Development Project at a cost of Rs.81.80 crore.

d) Comprehensive Watershed Development Project in Kamarajar, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar and Ramanathapuram Districts covering 18,000 ha. at a cost of Rs.12.50 crore will be funded by DANIDA.

e) DANIDA aided Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture (TANWA) Project Phase-II at a cost of Rs.15 crore will be implemented over 7 years period through out the State.

NEW THRUST AREAS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

Three new areas have been identified in agriculture sector needing external assistance. The three projects will need Rs.250 crore of aid for which project proposals are under preparation.

★ World Bank funded Problem Soil Reclamation Project which may cost about Rs.150 crore to reclaim 50,000 ha. of problem soil in 4 Districts.

★ Agricultural Development Programme for Hill Areas in Tamil Nadu with the assistance from FAO. The Project may be a multi-sectoral programme of about Rs.75 crore helping about one million population living in hill areas.

★ A Spices (Pepper and Turmeric) Development Programme to assist the coconut farmers to get additional income by raising pepper and turmeric in coconut gardens. The spices project will be linked with the Coconut Project already agreed to be funded by EEC.

FARMERS' PARTICIPATION IN COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT

★ Farmers' participatory strategy adopted in the Command Area Develpment Programme has been very successful. 43 Irrigation Councis with 1839 farmers associations have been formed in the Command Areas of Cauvery, Lower Bhavani, Sathanur, Parambikulam Aliyar and Periyar Vaigai. These Irrigation Councils are covering an area of 29,400 hectares for on-farm development and 9000 hectares for rotational water supply. Replication of this strategy in the other areas in same commands will be highly useful to improve foodgrains productivity per unit of water consumed.

In 1992-93, River Valley Project for soil conservation in the catchment of Kunda and Lower Bhavani has covered 3141 hectares with an expenditure of Rs.151.74 lakh. It is programmed to treat an area of 8,525 hectares.

Population of micro irrigation system in horticulture, food and commercial crops has been gaining momentum. In 1992-93 alone out of Rs.287.50 lakh of subsidy, Rs.140 lakh have already been utilised for sprinkler and drip irrigation system. Standardisation of 285 tanks at a cost of Rs.5 crore, construction of 736 percolation ponds at a cost of Rs.11.41 crore under Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam and sinking of new tube wells have been undertaken in the current year.

MECHANISATION OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation is taking up mechanisation of agricultural operation by getting 2,425 power tillers and 200 tractos. Rs.240 lakh subsidy for power tillers have been released to the Corporation. 200 power tillers and 30 tractors have so far been marketed by TAI in the current year. Along with TAI, Tamil Nadu Agro Engineering and Service Cooperative Federation (ENCOFED) takes up hiring of tractors and power tillers for the economically weaker section farmers in the State.

ENCOFED is a profit making service cooperative catering to the needs of supply of agro inputs like sprayers, fertilisers, pesticides, pumpsets etc. During 1992-93, ENCOFED aims to achieve fertilisers transaction of about Rs.70 crore. The service activities of ENCOFED includes sinking of bore wells, servising, repairing and fabrication works.

TAI is poised for a greater achievement in agro inputs, agricultural implements and edible oil trading activities in the current year. Its turn over is expected to be Rs.60 crore with major activities concentrated on marketing of fertiliser (60,000 tonnes), marketing of sunola sunflower oil (5,200 tonnes), pesticides marketing (3,700 tonnes) and fish nets (60 MTs.)

EPILEPSY - SOCIAL ASPECTS

Dr. P. Chitrambalam, M.D.,

There are few diseases wherein the part played by the patient, parents, friends, relatives and others have a vital role in effective management. Epilepsy is one of them. Hence it is of utmost importance for everyone to know what "EPILEPSY" means and what one should do about it.

Epilepsy is not a "CURSE". It is a disease of Nervous system. Like any other disease it also has a cause, and a cure. Superstition, fear and ignorance have made many feel that Epilepsy is due to a "VISIT OF DEVIL", a disease leading to madness, idiocy and so on. It is our duty to educate others all about Epilepsy.

PRESENTATION AND DIAGNOSIS:

Epilepsy is caused by abnormal excitation of the Nervous system leading to abnormal contractions of muscle, abnormal sensory perception, alternation in cognitive functions associated with (or) without loss of conciousness.

At one extreme it may present as so trivial as just a stare and flickening eyelid movements, sometimes escaping detection, and at another extreme, patients fall down, injure themselves, bite their tongues, pass urine (or) motion involuntarily and "KICK" their limbs causing fear in those around and having post-ictal symptoms for 24-48 hours. Suspecting or diagnosing a "FIT" when it is severe is not difficult whereas minor forms may be easily unnoticed. These include transient stare and deviation from awarness, numbness (or) parasthesia, twitching of one limb, one finger or eyelids or angle of mouth, a sudden sense of fear, transient change in behaviour, sudden unprovoked laughter, sudden unprovoked run, or any other change in behaviour which is transient and recurrent should make a person suspect the possibility of Epilepsy and the physician should be consulted.

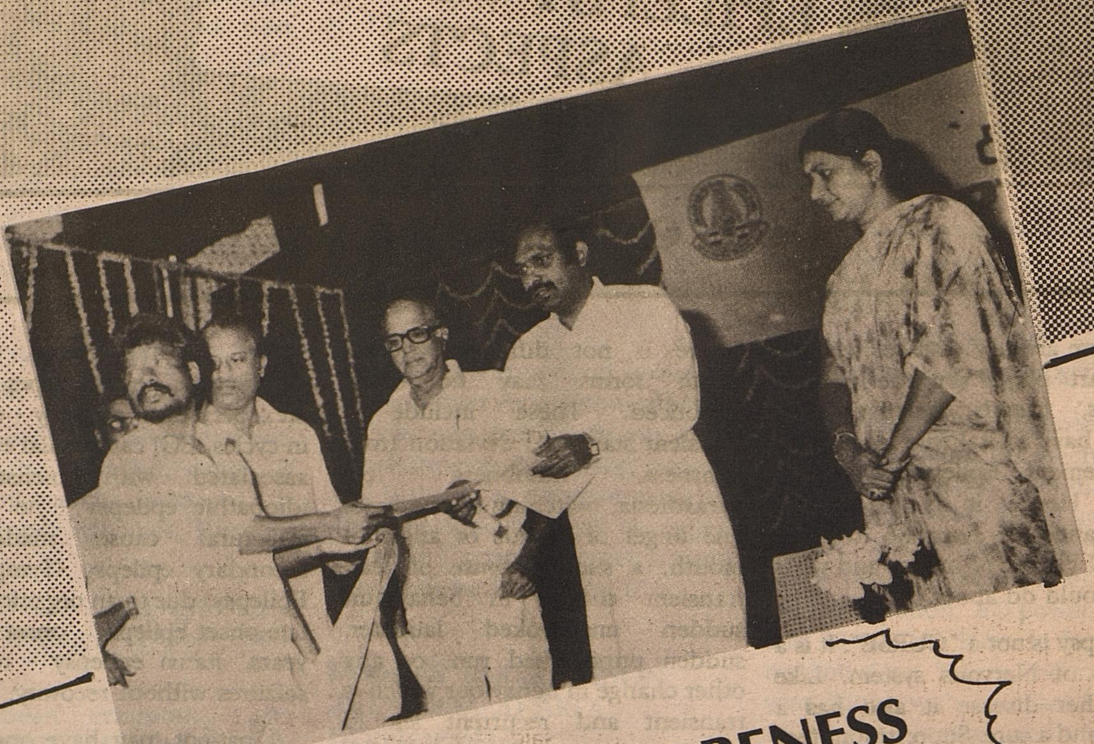
Various terminologies are used to describe the disease. Epilepsy - recurrent episodes for more than 6 months duration, seizure - a single episode, convulsion - when muscle activity is involved, fit - lay term, generalized epilepsy (Grand Mal) - involving all parts of the body, absence attacks (petit-mal) - transient deviation from awareness, drop attacks - sudden fall (in children), simple partial (focal) - involvement of one group of muscle (or) one part of the body, complex partial - (temporal lobe epilepsy, Psychomotor epilepsy) involvement of one part the body with loss of conciousness and or cognitive symptoms, sensory fit - numbness or parasthesia, myoclonic epilepsy - sudden jerky movements, atonic seizures - sudden loss of postural tone, febrile fits - associated with fever, reflex epilepsy - provoked by a defenite stimuli viz., smell, hot-water bath, music, photic stimulation, certain types of food etc., periodical epilepsy - occuring in cycles (EG) catamenial epilepsy - associated with mensturation, idiopathic epilepsy - no defenite structural cause made out, secondary epilepsy (Symptomatic Epilepsy) due to an organic disease, late-onset epilepsy - onset after 30 years, status epilepsy - repetitive seizures without recovery.

A patient may have one of the above type or a combination of more than one type.

CAUSATIVE FACTORS:

1. Genetic - A person has about 10% chance of developing epilepsy if his parents have the disease.
2. Hereditory disorders of metabolism.
3. Infections of central nervous system.
4. Head - Injury.
5. Congenital malformations of Central Nervous System.
6. Intracranial birth injury.
7. Paranatal Hypoxia and Ischemia.
8. Vascular disease of CNS.
9. Benign or malignant tumours of Brain.
10. Metabolic disorders.
11. Idiopathic - No demonstrable organic cause made out.
12. Drugs, Alcohol withdrawal.

The above said conditions alter the membrane potentials and give



EPILEPSY AWARENESS WEEK

rise to spontaneous firing of nerves leading to epilepsy.

A proper history, clinical examination, electroencephalogram, CT Scan, MRI, cerberospinal fluid analysis, and bio-chemical studies will reveal the diagnosis.

PATIENT COMPLIANCE AND CO-OPERATION:

Consult your doctor if you develop a fit, report if the fits recur inspite of treatment (or) if there is a change in the type of fit. Take medicines regularly, do not skip even a single dose. Sudden cessation of drug intake will precipitate an attack - sometimes severe than before. If fits are well controlled there is no neccesity to withhold education, job or marriage. Ensure adequate sleep - sleep deprivation provokes epilepsy. Avoid prolonged viewing of television, intermittent photic stimulation provokes epilepsy. Keep adequate dosage of drug. Do not change the dosage without physician's knowledge. Take drugs even if you have other ailments. Avoid hunger - Hypoglycaemia provokes fits. Avoid climbing ladders, swimming, working near the fire or moving machines, driving, playing or sitting near a deep place. If you develop a fit at these sites it may be disastrous. Have normal bowel habits.

FOR THE PARENT/RELATIVE OF AN EPILEPTIC:

Asses your child. If fits are well controlled with medication put him in a normal school. If not, or if associated with mental retardation it is preferable to educate in a special school. Ensure regular drug intake. Watch the fit carefully and narrate it to your physician - it will help very much in diagnosis. The child must be explained about his condition and all his questions normally answered. Children are more intelligent and courageous than we think they are, and often face their problems with great cheer. The teacher or warden must be informed about the child's

"Epilepsy Awareness Week" was observed in Tamil Nadu from 11th November 1992 to 17th November 1992. In connection with this, a function was organised by the Social Welfare Department and the Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Neurology at Kalaivanar Arangam on 11th November 1992. Hon'ble Minister for Health Thiru S. Muthusamy inaugurated the function. Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Tmt. R. Indirakumari participated and said the Tamil Nadu Government would build a 'Sheltered workshop' (which does not involve machinery with moving parts) for epileptic patients.

The workshop would benefit epileptic patients who, otherwise, would be exposed to the risk of attacks while working with sophisticated machinery.

The Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Neurology (ABCN) would be in charge of the workshop, estimated to cost about Rs.4 lakh.

The Social Welfare Department would also make available free medicine to epileptic patients.

The Minister said the Government would consider extending free bus passes for epileptic patients. The State Government would take action against school managements if they expelled epileptic students, she said.

Inaugurating the Epilepsy Awareness Week, Minister for Health said his ministry would consider withdrawing the sales tax on medicines essential for treatment of epilepsy.

Stressing the need for removing the superstitions about the disease, the Minister called for the cooperation of the people. In some cases, the parents themselves isolated their epileptic children resulting in their loss of confidence, he said.

Thiru C.V.Velmurugendran, the President, ABCN, Thiru M.Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Indian Bank, Prof. K.Jagannathan of Madras Medical College and Prof. B.Ramamurthy, eminent Neuro - Surgeon also spoke on the occasion.

Thiru A.Pitchai, Director of Rehabilitation for the Disabled offered felicitations. Thiru R.Kirubakaran, Secretary, Social Welfare Department presided over the function.

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illness.

All epileptics should have a card in his pocket giving details.

Name: Age:
Address:

I am an Epileptic

Physician Dr.______________
Phone No.:______________

WHAT TO DO WHEN A FIT OCCURS:

When the attack begins the person must be gently helped to the floor. He should not be held down to stop the convulsion or to lessen the movements. It is better that he is turned to one side so that the saliva will freely flow from the mouth and not choke the patient. A hand kerchief or a peice of cloth should be rolled and put between the patients teeth so that he will not involuntarily bite his tongue or lips. Any hard objects near the patient should be removed, so that he will not hurt himself. Water should not be dashed on his face to wake him up. After the convulsion stops he must be allowed to sleep and wake-up naturally. The physician should be informed.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS:

There are certain special problems associated with epilepsy - epilepsy and mental retardation, epilepsy and marriage counselling, genetic counselling, recruitment to a job, skilled labour, higher education, pregnancy, fitness for anasthesia and so on. These problems have no generalized answer. Each patient must be assessed and conclusion given based on I.Q. Response to therapy, occurence of last fit, type of epilepsy and associated diseases. This neccesitates the combined approach of physician, psychiatrist and neuro-psychologist.

With proper understanding of the disease, and co-operation of others an epileptic can be helped in a big-way.

NEWS IN BRIEF

2.11.92

The Government has decided to adopt a three tier - Primary, Secondary and Higher secondary school system in place of the present four tier system - elementary, middle, high and higher secondary.

Primary school will have classes upto the fifth, Secondary from sixth to the tenth, and higher secondary eleventh and twelth. When this system comes into effect, there will be one high school for every six km and one higher secondary school for every eight km in the State.

★ To ensure daylong supply of milk in all parts of the City, Avin milk will be supplied at the Automatic Vending Machines from 4 am to 8 pm except for lunch reces and the time taken for cleaning and filling up of tanks.

5.11.92

The Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have decided to constitute a joint official committee to work out details for renewing the Inter-State, Parambikulam - Aliyar agreement. This was decided at a bilateral meeting between the Irrigaiton Ministers of the two states at the Secretariat, Madras on 5.11.92. The joint Committee would have six members each from the two States. They would go into aspects including technical and present a report within 60 days. They would take not of the issues raised in the memorandum presented by both the Governments. It would also go into details like agronomic changes which had taken place in the ayacut areas of Parambikulam-Aliyar Project system, the rainfall details in the various reservoirs and other connected hydrological details and present its report before January 10, 1993.

Another issue discussed at the meeting was on strengthening the storage capacity of Mullai - Periyar Dam. The Tamil Nadu Minister for PWD requested the Kerala Minister to consider the diversion of the waters of the Pamba and Achankoil rivers to meet the essential drinking water and irrigation requirements of the drought prone pockets in the Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu.

★ A $10 million AIDS Prevention and control project for Tamil Nadu, financed by the United States Agency for International Development, was launched in Madras on 5.11.92. The State Health Minister inaugurated the Project, which will be implemented over a seven year period. The voluntary Health Services, Madras, will act as the projects nodal agency with participation from about 100 non-Governmental Organisations and the Central and State Government Departments.

The Project aims at supporting non-Governmental organisations in educating targeted populations, such as prostitutes, promiscuous males and adolescents, promote and sell condoms, enhance STD services and counselling, and support research for increasing effectiveness of intervention programmes. Funding of media campaigns and rainforcing interpersonal communication between NGOs are also part of Aids Prevention and Control Project.

11.11.92

The Minister for Social Welfare said the Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to take up a project to plant saplings in the 68,000 noon meal centres in the State. The drive would be completed in about a month. Under the scheme papaya and 'murungai' would be planted.

★ The Union Minister of State for Tourism announced that a 'Palace on Wheels' would be introduced in Tamil Nadu by the Union Tourism Ministry. The proposed 'Palace on Wheels' would be operated between Tirupati and Rameswaram railway stations, linking all important temple towns of South India with convenient connections from Madras. A Yatri Nivas has been sanctioned for Rameswaram, declared pilgrimage centre by the Committee on Pilgrim Tourism. Following a special request from the State, a special assistance of Rs.6 lakh had been sanctioned to beautify the beaches in Kanniyakumari. Out of that Rs.4 lakh had been released to the State, the Union Minister said.

Madras, Mamallapuram, Pondicherry, Tranquebar and Kancheepuram have been identified for development under the Special Tourism Area.

28.11.92

The Minister for Social Welfare said the Government has allocated Rs.4 crore for the current year to benefit 20,000 girl children under a special scheme to help the parents below the poverty line. Under this scheme Rs.2000 is deposited in the infant girls name by the Government and the interest from the deposit is given to the girl child at specified intervals. Applications received are processed before the deposit certificates are handed over to the parents. To be eligible for the deposit, the parents should be below the poverty line (The annual income should be less than Rs.6,400), either of the parents should have accepted permanent birth control measures, the family should already have one or two girl children, and the girl child for whom the deposit is sought should be below three years.

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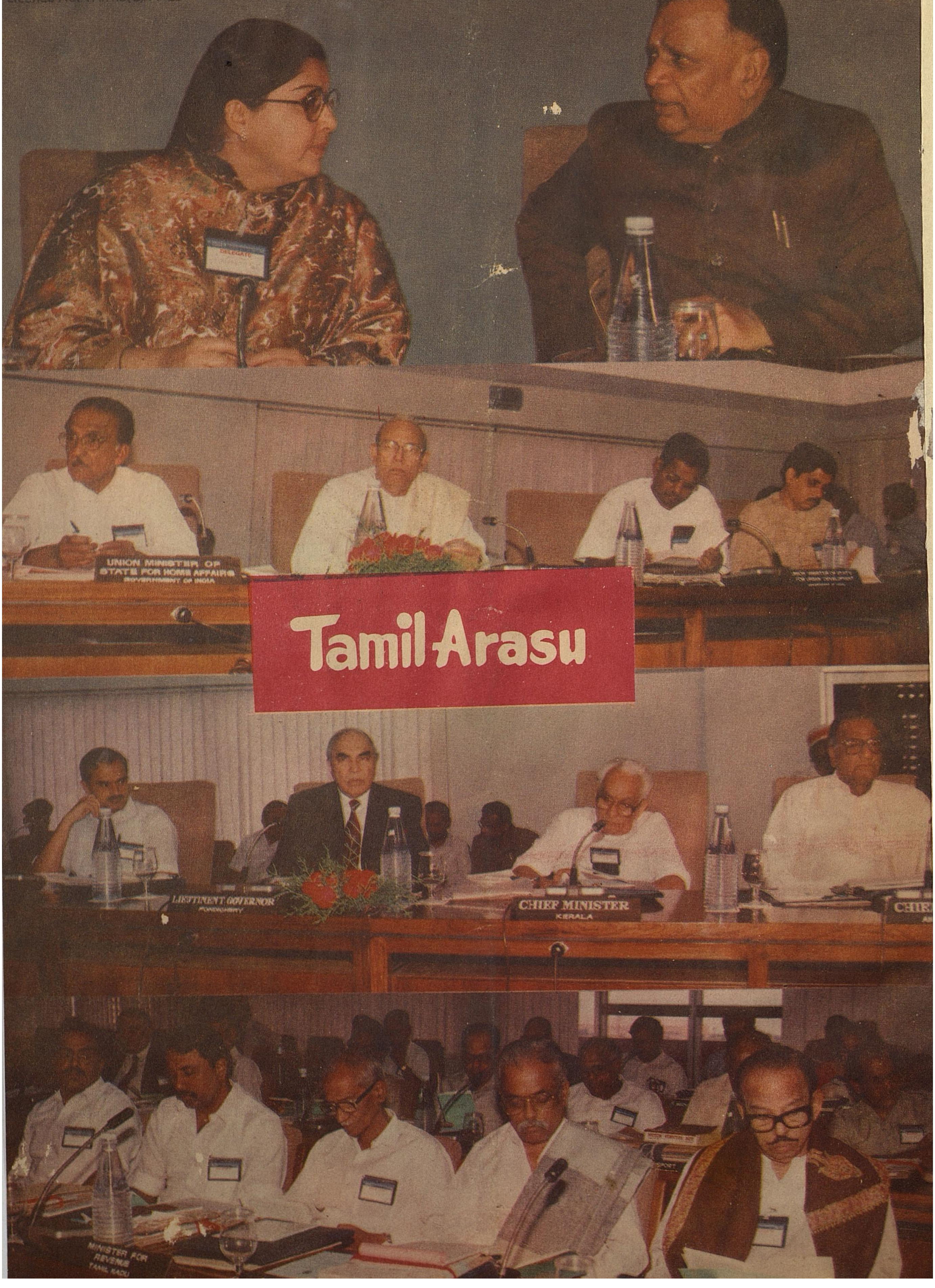
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